The Loves OF CHARLES DUKE of *MANTUA*; And of MARGARET Countess of *ROVERA*.

Translated out of Italian.

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The LOVES of CHARLES DUKE of *MANTUA*; And of MARGARET Countess of *ROVERA*:

A *Translation* out of *Italian*.

THE Princess *Mary* remaining a Widdow by the Death of the Prince her Husband, imployed all her Art and Care in Governing the *State*, which we may yet call Hers; and us'd much Diligence in Chusing fit *Ministers* to assist Her in that Affair, during the Mino-

rity of her Son *Charles*, who was too young to meddle with Affaires of that Nature: I need not here undertake the description of that extreme tender affection which all the World observ'd in this Princess towards the young Duke; but will recommend it to those fond Women, who are Mothers of an only Son, and sole Heir to a great and Illustrious Family: The Caresses of this indulgent Mother were more powerful upon him, then all the Political, Scholastical, and Military instructions which he received every day from the different Masters of his Exercises. All the Ladies of the Court, to comply with the desires of the Dutchess (whose greatest pleasure was, to see her Son won by those extraordinary Caresses,) and to delight themselves in the great satisfaction they every day took in discovering new graces in that little Prince, made it their whole study to please him, by carressing and imbracing him even in their Armes; although he was already in an Age wherein Nature usually excites those motions which Love often produces. One day one of the Principal Senatours of *Mantua* observing

ſerving the Ladies that waited on the Dutcheſs, & her Maids of Honour, were thus employ'd about this little Prince, could not refraine from ſaying aloud; That the State would have but an Effeminate Prince, in which, he proved no falſe Prophet.

Amongſt all the young Ladies that attended the Dutcheſs, there was one born in the City of *Caſale*, and was, by reaſon of her beauty, and good Meene, juſtly called, The Ornament of the Court, and delight of the Courtiers: The little Duke himſelf expreſſed a great inclination for her, and one may ſay much above what his tender years ſeem'd to permit: but perhaps her name being *Margaret*, this young Prince believed he did nothing below himſelf, in admiring the Jewel, which is generally called the pureſt.

The Princeſs, who was infinitely pleaſed with what ever her Son delighted in, recommended him particularly to this young Lady (not as to a Governeſs, her Age being almoſt equal, but onely) to divert him in his houres of Recreation, which was truely to recommend the Cabbidge to the care of

the Kid, and to give the Sheep into the keeping of the Wolfe: For, this young Lady looking upon this Imployment as a good Fortune for her, and seeing very well that nothing was wanting in this young Prince but the Age to Govern, she so well applyed her self to get his Favour, in making use of all those little Arts that usually takes young People, that in a little time it was easie to be observ'd, her Intentions were not so much to serve him as a Master, but to gain him for a Friend; and, to change the quality of Servant into that of his Mistress.

The little Duke, who already began to take some other kind of delight in the Company of Ladies, then what little Children usually do, very easily sacrific'd these First Fires of his Love, which were newly born in him, to this young and subtil Play-fellow of his; who, on her side, was more and more inflam'd with Love to this young Prince, by the great and particular kindness he expreſt to her.

In the mean time, whilest these two young hearts burn in a reciprocal Fire for one another, yet their years were so

tender

tender, that all their Pleaſures conſiſted in Talking, and taking each other by the hand, and perhaps in ſome little ſtolne Kiſſes now and then: All the Diverſions which the Duke found in the Court amongſt the Ladies, being, either to pull down the Stool, when they were ſet to work, or elſe to fling their work into the fire, or ſometime to ſteal a Kiſs, or to jumpe into their Armes, and talk of Love, which he as yet but little underſtood. But Jealouſie, which is ſo great a Courtier in the Palaces of all Princes, fail'd not to make an early viſit to the Court of that young Duke, and was already got amongſt all his little Play-fellows, and began already to play the Tyrant in the Hearts of the young Ladies; and, chiefly amongſt thoſe who believed they merited the Dukes Favour moſt; if not in beauty, yet by reaſon of their great Birth, or in the Favour of the Dutcheſs his Mother: yet, neverthelefs, the Duke made ſtill his greateſt Court to Madamoiſelle *Margaret*; and, ſhe fail'd not to give him a return; and the more they perceiv'd the envy of the other Ladies, who indeavoured to

Croſs

Croſs them, the more powerful their Love grew to each other.

It was one day told the Dutcheſs, That her Son was ſo taken up with his love to Madamoiſelle *Margaret*, that he would never make the Sign of the Croſs with any Hand but Hers: but the Dutcheſs rallying preſently that Man which told her ſo, Anſwered him; Where there is no Malice, Love is ſincere; Truſting to the innocent Childiſhneſs of ſuch tender years, and not being able to imagine, that a young Child of nine years old (as he was) could have a Paſsion for a Girle of the ſame Age. The Mother of Madamoiſelle *Margaret* liv'd alſo in this Court, and waited upon the Dutcheſs, which was the reaſon of her daughters being there ſo young: This old Lady was ſo crafty, that ſhe wanted nothing but *Poetry* to be that *Coriſco* in the *Paſtor Fiao*; the more ſhe diſcover'd ſigns of Love in the Duke to her Daughter, the more ſhe inſtructed her in the Art to increaſe and mannage that growing Paſſion; and Taught her the Art of making Love, which ſhe underſtood in Perfection.

In the mean time the Dutchess beginning to think it now high time to withdraw her Son from the company of Women, amongst whom, he ordinarily, like other young Princes, passed away the best part of the day; she chose a Governour for him, prudent, and of approved integrity, and indowed with all necessary qualifications fit for a man that was to undertake so great an Imployment as the Education of a young Prince. The Person she made choice of, as most fit, was the *Marquess* of *Arrigony*; who receiv'd this charge with all the demonstrations of Affection and joy imaginable; hoping, that his Services would in time render him very considerable in the Government, by the impressions he should make upon the spirit of this young Prince; but, it arriv'd quite contrary to his expectations.

When the Dutchess committed this young Duke unto the Care of the Marquess, she above all recommended to him three things: *First*, To Teach him all the Exercises of a Gallant Man with Mildness, that he might learn them with delight. *Se-*

condly, To be ſure not to neglect the Finding out what he was chiefly inclin'd to, and moſt capable of; leaſt he ſhould give him too hard a Leſſon. *Thirdly*, And above all, not to force him to do any thing againſt his will, and was abſolutely againſt his inclination; and to be ſure to allow him his houres of Divertiſements with the Ladies of the Court, and principally with Madamoiſelle *Margaret*, who was chiefly acquainted with his Humour.

To ſpeak the Truth, theſe orders were not at all ſutable to the Prudence nor Humour of the Marqueſs; who could not imagine to what end they were given him, ſeeing nothing in them extraordinary; beſides, he was vext within himſelf, to ſee, by that, the Princeſs lookt upon him as a Man very unread in what belong'd to the Government of a Prince: He Promis'd nevertheleſs to obey her Highneſs exactly, and not to be wanting in that fidelity which was ſo natural to his Family, and ſo particular to himſelf; yet he could not hold from ſaying, That he was very ready to ſerve his Maſter to his capacity; but, in his opinion, it would

would be better to diſaccuſtome a little this young Prince from the company of Ladies, then to uſe him ſo much to their Converſation; ſince he could receive no Leſſons from them but what were Effeminate, which was a thing very injurious to Princes: To which the Dutcheſs reply'd; That the honeſt and lawful converſe with Women taught great Men to Rule with gentleneſs; and that ſhe deſir'd nothing more in her Son, nor from himſelf. The Marqueſs having no more to ſay after that Declaration, made no Anſwers but of Proteſtations of obedience to her Highneſs in all things. After that the Dutcheſs ſent for the young Duke, and commanded him to look upon the Marqueſs as the guide of his Perſon and actions; and perſwaded him to think it no trouble to follow the Adviſes of a Man, who would inſpire no Sentiments into him but thoſe of his Glory and advantage.

The Marqueſs having paid his Reſpects and Acknowledgments to the Dutcheſs, retir'd himſelf till the Apartment order'd for him was made ready: In going out of the Hall he met with

Mounſieur

Moun ſieur *Pianezza* a Friend of his, and his particular Confident, to whom he related his new happineſs in the Dutcheſſes Favour; withal, telling him the particular Orders he received from her concerning the Education of the young Duke, not forgetting a word of all had paſt, eſpecially that paſſage which concern'd of the young Dukes Recreations amongſt the Ladies of the Court: *Pianezza* judging this Order not very agreeable to the Marqueſs, whiſper'd to him very ſoftly; Monſieur, Be you ſure to tye the Aſſe where the Maſter bids you, and let the Wolves eat it if they pleaſe.

The Marqueſs anſwer'd, ſmiling; I am too Old to make uſe of opportunity; and too Young to ſerve the Amours of another.

Madamoiſelle *Margaret*, who knew the humour of the Marqueſs was more inclin'd to Rigour, and Duty, then of Compliance, would not have been troubled to have ſeen the Education of her young Duke committed to any other then he; though it is certain ſhe was too young to make this diſtinction of her ſelf, but that ſhe was inſtructed by her

her Mother. Now it happen'd one day, that this young Lady meeting with the Duke and the Marquess together, she said (without doubt, by the Instructions of her Mother) Sir, I am extreame glad to see the Choice the Dutchess has made of you for the Conduct of our Prince; for certainly, it could have been committed to no person in the World so fit as your self; whose merit is so universally esteem'd, and 'tis likely to be most profitable for his Highness advantage. The Marquess guessing from whence this Complement came, and that her Mother had taught her what to say, could not refrain from Laughing a little; and taking her by the hand, acknowledg'd her Favour by all the expressions he could think of: taking very much delight in the discourse of that young Lady, who, to say truth, besides her other extraordinary beauties, was very agreeable in her discourse.

Another time, meeting her in the Court of the Pallace, she told the Marquess, almost Laughing; Now the Prince is so much yours, we can be allow'd no part in him: The Marquess

also

also Laughing, and putting his hand upon her Face, answered her; My pretty little Lady, the Duke is too young to be yours, therefore you ought not to be angry that he is so much mine: Thereupon the young Duke taking Madamoiselle *Margaret*'s side, answered presently, I will be theirs that will be mine; Would you have me be yours? The young Lady only answer'd with a low Curt'sy, and a Look, which shew'd the desires and sentiments of Her heart.

Some few Moneths after that, the Marquess being Declar'd Governour, and the *Duke of Parma* being to pass through that Countrey to go to *Venice*, the Dutchess, although he intended to make that Voyage Incognito, fail'd not to send the Marquess, at all adventures to meet him, with her young Son the Duke; and the Dutchess desiring, that he should be received in passing by, with all the Honours imaginable, though he intended not to be known: The Complemental dispute between these two Princes at this Ceremonious Enterview, kept them so long in the hot Sun in the Fields, that the young

Duke

Duke received no little trouble by the heat which is so ordinary there in the Moneth of *June*: In the mean time all things having pleas'd the Duke of *Parma* very much in this meeting, and the young Duke returning home, he fell into a little Feaver, accompanied with so great a pain in his head, that it was the trouble of the whole Court, especially the Dutchess, who was most sensibly afflicted; no Remedies imaginable for his distemper were omitted, yet nevertheless they did no good, for the Feaver and extreame pain in his head rather increased; although Madamoiselle *Margaret*, whose grief was equal to her tenderness, stirr'd not from his Bed-side; laying her hand sometimes upon his head, which was no small pleasure and ease to the young sick Prince. The Dutchess his Mother, who was almost every day coming and going to his Chamber, to inquire of his condition, asking him one day, How he did? he answer'd her boldly; Madam, ever since Madamoiselle *Margaret* has toucht my head, I have scarce felt any Paine. It was not very difficult for the Mother to believe her Son, from the

observation she had already made of his Love to that young Lady, and therefore she said to him, Well, my son, she shall be put to bed to you, if the Marquis your Governour will approve of it; He will not approve of it, (replied the yong Prince) because he does not know my disease: I do know it said the Marquis, (who was not very far off) and I know that your sickness has need of a remedy.

During this sickness of three or four days the hearts of this *Piramus*, and of this *Thisbe* inflam'd extreamly, but in a way very natural and conformable to their age, which did not yet allow them any other thoughts but what were innocent; This young Lady, who was not less interessed in the repose of the Prince than of his health, stirr'd not from his bed-side from morning until night, with a Fan in her hand to drive away the Flyes, which in that Countrey ordinarily torments the sick.

He being at last recovered from this fit of sickness, applyed himself anew to his exercises, though with little inclination or profit; The Marquis saw very well that the love which this young

Prince

Prince had for this *Madamoiſelle Margaret* grew up with him, and that his deſires of profiting in Learning thoſe things more fit for his Study (without which a Prince looſes his beſt ornament) diminiſht every day as he grew older, which was a moſt ſenſible affliction to the Marquis, who took all the pains imaginable about him.

One evening after Supper the Dutcheſs walking in her Garden with the Marquis, ſhe askt him the reaſon why her ſon made ſo ſlow a Progreſs in thoſe exerciſes he had learnt, as well Military as others, and wonder'd that at 14 years of age as he was then, there was nothing at all extraordinary to be obſerv'd in him. The Marqueſs fancying the aſtoniſhment the Dutcheſs had put on was a reproach to his diligence and affection both, was very much piqu'd, and a little mortified, nevertheleſs without diſcovering his reſentments; Me thinks, Madam, ſaid he, if I may have leave to ſay ſo to your Highneſs, that your Speeches are very much alter'd from your declar'd opinion to me that minute your Highneſs was pleas'd to give me that honourable im-

ployment

ployment of Governour to the young Duke your ſon; For, I remember you commanded me then, to inſtruct him in all things with mildneſs and moderation, and now your Highneſs wonders why I have not forc'd his nature, and his ſtrength. I confeſs, Madam, I ſcrupled nothing more than diſobeying your Orders, but to deal ingeniouſly with your Highneſs, I muſt tell you this truth, that if my affection to him and my cares had not rous'd him a little, and almoſt conſtrain'd him to apply himſelf to thoſe exercises the moſt neceſſary for him, that he would this day be more ignorant than he is; although whatever he poſſeſſes appears very inconſiderable to your Highneſs, the Duke can ſit very well, and has a very becoming grace on horsback, he has often ran at the ring and won the Prize, to the ſhame and confuſion of the moſt experienc'd Cavaliers in that exerciſe, he is not very unskilful in his Arms, and for his Dancing, certainly your Highneſs can better judge of that than I: it is true he has but little inclination to the French and Latine Tongues, nevertheleſs he underſtands the one, and

begins

begins to ſpeak the other; but if your Highneſs will permit me to ſpeak my opinion, I muſt tell you if that *Madamoiſelle Margaret* were made tutour to the Prince, or were the onely thing he were to ſtudy, he would without all queſtion profit much better then he does. For he ſpends more time in making love to this Lady, then he allows to his Leſſons: whil'ſt the Ducheſs and the Marquis were in this diſcourſe, the young Duke came into the walk, and the Ducheſs immediately askt him, if it were true that the Marquis ſaid; to which he ſuddenly made anſwer without examining what it was, that it was a thing impoſſible for him to anſwer a demand upon the ſudden of a thing he was ignorant of; the Ducheſs would have preſſed him further, but that minute ſhe receiv'd Letters of great concern from *Venice* which ſhe read, and communicated them to the Marquis as ſhe was wont to do all Papers of publick buſineſs. In the mean time the young Dukes affection for Madamoiſelle *Margaret* increaſed every day, and grew faſter then he; he ador'd and reſpected her, and he did not ſeem to

live when he was abſent from her, though but a moment, every one knows there is no Lady in the Court ſo Fair, nor ſo cruel, whom intereſt and ambition does not ſoften, to gain the love of their Prince, nay, the very men of Quality, the moſt conſiderable amongſt the Courtiers often ſhut their eyes and ſerve their Prince, neer thoſe of their own Relations; certainly there never was a Prince ſo paſſionately deſir'd by the Ladies as this Duke *Charles*; he was often treated by many great men, to no other end but to ſhew him their wives, or their Daughters, but to their great diſappointment, becauſe this Prince lookt onely modeſtly upon them, his love to Madamoiſelle *Margaret* made him neglect all others, looking upon none but her with tenderneſs and love, and often proteſted he would not change her for all the Faireſt Ladies in the Univerſe.

And now this young Duke is arriv'd to his eighteenth year of age, I will call him no longer the little Duke. This Duke then went often into the Chamber of Madamoiſelle *Margarets* mother, where he was always flatter'd and

and carreſs'd, nay, the mother her ſelf ſhut him up ſometimes with her daughter, and left them alone upon the bed playing together, carrying the Key away in her Pocket. One day the Duke going to walk, perhaps with deſign, in the Palace Garden, he met the mother and her daughter walking alone in the wood, the Duke no ſooner approached them then he cryed, Madamoiſelle have a care in coming ſo often into this wood you are not raviſht. The mother (who was the craftieſt woman in the world) anſwer'd him preſently, So ſhe is raviſht by a Prince, there will be no great hurt; but the Prince replyed as quickly, You had better let her give the Favour to a Prince, then ſtay till he force it: It is true, ſaid the mother, but Favours gain'd that way are more ſweet and ſecret. The Prince in the mean time took the young Lady by the hand to walk with him in the wood, whil'ſt the mother return'd to the Palace very well pleas'd to leave her daughter in ſuch good company, who ſtay'd three hours together in that place, none knows what they did: But after they had taken their walk, the

Prince waited upon Madamoiſelle *Margaret* to her mothers chamber, to whom he ſaid, Here, Madam, take your daughter which I reſtore you in the ſame condition you left her with me. I believe what you ſay, Sir, anſwered ſhe, becauſe you are a Prince.

From that day Madamoiſelle *Margaret* began to take upon her, and ſhew ſome kind of Empire over the Duke, and the Prince found no inclinations in himſelf to reſiſt her. The Ducheſs appear'd indifferent, and did not ſeem diſpleas'd at their Friendſhip, imagining that the Duke was oblig'd one way or other to divert his youth, and ſhe was the more willing to allow him this Friendſhip with Madamoiſelle *Margaret*, becauſe ſhe was well acquainted with her diſpoſition, and believ'd ſhe would not ingage the Duke into any diſorder'd way of life prejudiciable to his Perſon or Fortune, and ſo while all this paſt, ſhe ſhut her eyes, and took no notice at all, and though one day ſhe hid her ſelf to watch their actions, yet ſhe could diſcover nothing between them but teſtimonies of a Friendſhip which reaſon allows of.

But

But since the Love of these two persons was become the general discourse, the Duchess consulted many times very seriously with the Marquis *Arigone*, who very farre from approving this too violent inclination, as many others did, who were well enough pleas'd to let the Duke freely pursue his inclinations: He on the contrary, forgot nothing, to let them see they ought to have prevented him: the Marquess was press'd on by these reasons;

In *Mantua* there dwelt a widow that was one of the most considerable women of that place, who was mother to one of the most fair and agreeable young Ladys of all that State. This woman who was not very rich in worldly goods, suiting her self to her fortune, liv'd onely in the quality of a Gentlewoman, and not like a great Lady; The Marquis, who had a passionate kindness for her, let no occasion pass of diverting his melancholly hours at her house, and as she was not very cruel to him, she granted him willingly those Favours that Love demands, without expecting interest, imagining that the

Marqueſs, who was naturally very grateful, would not fail, for the Mothers ſake, who granted him all things, to ſerve the Daughter to his Highneſs the Duke; and this opportunity pleas'd the Marqueſs very well, of ſhewing himſelf grateful to the kind Widow, in procuring the Love of the Duke for her Daughter, and alſo of teſtifying his Affection to his Prince, in bringing to him one of the moſt Accompliſh'd young Women amongſt his Subjects: but, ſince he fear'd it a thing impoſſible to do, ſo long as this paſſion of the Dukes to the Lady *Margaret* continued, he tryed all wayes to ſtifle it, but unprofitably; becauſe the Duke was ſo inſenſible for all other Women, as well Maids as Wives, that neither the handſome nor ugly work'd any effect upon him; for he us'd them both ſo indifferently, they had no reaſon to be jealous of one another: The Lady *Margaret* was the only Favourite, and the moſt lov'd; and what beauty ſoever hapned to be in the Dukes preſence, he had eyes for none but ſhe.

One day the Marqueſs imagining that it was impoſſible for the Duke to

ſee that fine young Lady of his Acquaintance, and not fall in love with her, carryed him to her Mothers houſe, who had invited him to that purpoſe; and had ſpar'd for no Coſt, nor Ornament, to ſet off the Beauty of her Daughter, but all was to no purpoſe: and though the Marqueſs and the Mother left this young Lady and the Duke alone two houres together in a Chamber, the Duke ſate by her, as if ſhe had not been there, without ſpeaking one obliging word to her: The inſenſibility of this Duke was as a Dagger to the heart of this young Lady; and, in truth, What is more vexatious to a Woman, then to ſee, that all the arts ſhe has us'd to gain a heart ſignifie ſo little in the end. The Marquiſs quickly perceiv'd, that the Duke was not very well pleas'd in the place where he had brought him; therefore in returning home to the Palace, he begun to praiſe her extreamly; the Duke, although he ſeemed to take no notice, and yet nevertheleſs forc't by the Marqueſs to ſpeak of that Ladies Beauty he came from, ſaid to the Marqueſs, My Lord, This Lady is faire

enough for you, who ſees her every day, but not for me, who never ſaw her before, and looks not upon her ſo often as you do: The Marqueſs reply'd, Your Highneſs muſt then ſee her often, that you may think her fairer than now you do: The Duke anſwer'd ſmiling, If I ſhould ſee her once more, certainly I ſhould think her more ugly then I do now. The poor Marqueſs was mad at this, and eſpecially when the Duke, whil'ſt they were talking, turn'd about and ſhew'd him the Lady *Margaret*, who they met in the Street; See there, my Lord Marqueſs, ſaid he, there is the faireſt amongſt all that are faire.

Whil'ſt theſe things paſt, the Dutcheſs growing angry, to ſee her Son ſo far gone in Love with the Lady *Margaret*, carryed by ſome unknown Politick reaſons, and perhaps at the earneſt Solicitations of the Marqueſs, ſent the Mother and the Daughter away to *Caſal*, yet with all the Civility imaginable, and with a particular Promiſe to Marry her very ſuddenly, as indeed it happen'd ſoon after: The Duke expreſs'd no great ſigns publickly of reſentment

ſentment for her going away, hiding his trouble, without all doubt, very prudently, to take all ſuſpition from the Court: Till then, it was believ'd by moſt, that nothing but vertue had paſs'd between this Lady and the Duke; but others, that lookt nearer into the buſineſs, and could ſee farther into matters of Love, believ'd the contrary; not being able to imagine, how Vertue could ſubſiſt with ſo great a Liberty: and that a young Girle, who deſir'd nothing more then the heart of a Prince, could refuſe him any thing. The Duke certainly was not without deſires, nor the young Lady without a good will; the youth of them both, and the great liberty allowed them, gave ſtrange cauſes of ſuſpition: In fine, believe who will, that all their time was ſpent in ſaying their Chapelets, and their Pater-noſters, for my part I never will.

Some time before the parture of the Lady *Margaret*, the Duke had many long and private Conferences with her, where there wanted no Tears on both ſides at that cruel ſeparation, as a Waiting-Woman obſerv'd; he could not forbear

forbear promising to Write to her, till he had the opportunity of going to visit her at *Casal*, which he gave her his Word should be very suddenly: These Protestations of the Dukes rais'd her Heart a little, which was so sunk with the Fears and Troubles of a cruel Absence she was to suffer, and gave her courage to ask his Highness a word or two under his Hand, every moneth at least; which Favour she demanded of him in these Words; If your Highness will please to Write to me once every moneth, it will give me every day a Paradice: The Duke embracing her, said, with all the tenderness of a passionate heart, go, and believe, that nothing in the World shall ever be capable to carry me from loving you.

She was scarce arriv'd at *Casal*, but the Duke writ a Letter to her, as well for his own satisfaction, as for the contentment of her he Lov'd, it was thus;

Margaret,

MARGARET,

My Heart;

THis is the first Letter which I write to you, with one of those Pens that are guided by Love; I addres to you, whom I alone adore, as the onely and first object of my Love: To tell you how sensible I am of your absence, you must aske this Heart, which thinks more of you, then of it self; I do not sware it to you; the Words of Princes needs no Oaths to Authorize them: however, I shall give you such proofes, that you your self will not desire greater. Let me know the succes of your Voyage, and the state of your Health since you went from hence, and whether you Love him that is wholly your

CHARLES.

This *Letter* was given in charge to a Post that was sent from Court to the Governour of *Casal*, with expres Order to give it to no other hands but she to whom it was directed: The Joy of

of this young Lady was so extraordinary in receiving it, that she read it three or four times over in the presence of the Man that brought it; and every time with a Face over-joy'd, to that extremity she seem'd to him, she would have eaten it, that so her heart might have been the Cabinet to preserve it. The Mother was not at home when her Daughter was thus entertaining the Post, and examining him with great concern of the Dukes health, and chiefly of his Employments; and whether he did not particularly Visit some Lady or other with great Familiarity: but, in these Questions to him, she seem'd not to understand what she did, for a Man of that condition, that sees the Court but at a distance, is not to be askt such Questions: But, it is true, she was at that time to be pardon'd, since the occasion of that Letter was enough to put her into extraordinary transports for him she Lov'd. The Mother being return'd, gave order for something for the Post to eate, whilst in the mean time she read over and over again with her Daughter the Dukes Letter, and consulted together for the

Answer,

Answer, which they return'd by the same Messenger, in these words;

Great PRINCE;

TO tell your Highness *how much comfort your Letter gave me, is impossible for me to express; I could not defend my self from vanity, in reading so many proofes of Affection from your* Highnesses *Goodness: if I were not well acquainted with the nature of it, which is indulgent to all those who like me, Courts with a most humble Respect all opportunities of obeying your* Highnesses *Commands. It will not be hard for you to find amongst your Subjects a Merit above mine; but, I Question very much if your* Highness *can find any more affectionate to your Service then I am: I have already Sworn to you all the Fidelity and Service can be expected from a Person of my Sex. It belongs to your* Highness *to Command, and me to Obey; yet my Feares tell me, that you do not so often think of Commanding me, as I do of Blindly Obeying you. As for the Account you are Graciously pleased to*

desire

desire of my Journey hither, I assure your Highness, *it had been very pleasant and happy for me, if every step I made to* Casal *had not carryed me from what I left behind at* Mantua, *so dear to me: Your* Highness *asks me if I love you; How can you believe it possible to be so ungrateful, not to love a Prince that loves me. I will say nothing more, but that I am and will be, to your* Highness, *Great Prince,*

A most Humble,
and Obedient Servant,

Margaret.

The *Dukes* of *Mantua* had a Custome, of going three or four times every year to *Casal*, to Visit that place, so considerable, for its Scituation, and because it is the Capital City of *Montferrat:* The Duke resolved for the future to make that place his ordinary residence; carryed more by his Love to the Lady *Margaret*, then for Interest of State: And none can express with what repugnance he quitted that Town to go to *Mantua*, when at any time the necessity

neceſs ty of his Affaires called him thither; yet he indevour'd to conceal the true reaſon of his ſtay ſo much in that place, by pretending the Ayre was ſo much better; ſaying often, That the Ayre of *Mantua* was an Ayre for *Monks* to dwell in, but that of *Caſal* was an Ayre for the Seat of a Prince: And, in truth, he was very much in the right, when he ſpoke ſo of thoſe two places, ſo contrary to each other; for the Ayre of *Caſal* was extraordinary good, and that of *Mantua* had nothing at all commendable in it: though, 'tis true, the Ayre where Princes reſide purifies admirably. All Affaires the Duke took in hand at *Mantua* proſper'd very ill; but, on the contrary, it ſeem'd that *Caſal* was Fortunate to all his Enterpriſes: There was ſcarce a day but the Duke complained of ſome Indiſpoſition or other whil'ſt he was at *Mantua*; his Head, his Stomach, and I know not how many more Infirmities tormented him, or at leaſt he pretended it: but, when he was at *Caſal*, he never made the leaſt complaint of any thing, whether he had cauſe or not; but, if it hapned, that ſome Fits of an Ague,

Feaver

Feaver, or any distemper seiz'd upo
him at *Casal*, he would lay the fau
upon his having staid too long at *Ma*
tua.

The Dukes of *Mantua* have a Pa
lace near to *Casal*, call'd the *Margaret*
whether they have alwayes been accu
stom'd to divert themselves some tim
of the Summer; and there was a Phy
sitian in *Mantua*, who, being pretty we
acquainted with the temper of th
Duke, and the inclination he had fo
the Lady *Margaret*, understood ver
well, that all these Distempers th
Duke so often complained of at *Ma*
tua, had no other cause but an Amo
rous Feaver; and therefore he fail'
not to advise the Duke to visit ofte
that wholsome Ayre of *Casal*: And
whil'st the other Physitians were search
ing out the cause of the Dukes disease
and busying their heads to find a re
medy, this wise happy brother of thei
advis'd the Ayre of *Margaret* as th
only place of Cure for his Highnes
and was well rewarded for his paines b
the Duke, whose delight at *Casal* y
may easily imagine was great, and h
health perfect. The satisfaction
go

going to *Casal*, and leaving *Mantua*, was plainly discover'd in the different Journeys he made, in going and returning between those two places; by the hast he made to the one, and the slow pace he went towards the other: to *Mantua* he went with a *Tortoyses* pace, and to *Casal* he flew as fast as an *Eagle*: Whensoever his Important Affaires oblig'd him to go from *Casal* to *Mantua*, he Travell'd like a Prince; but, when he was to leave *Mantua*, and go towards *Casal*, he went in Post. The Pastimes of the Duke were not very great, nor divertizing to the Court, for his greatest pleasure was in visiting the Lady *Margaret*, in whose Company his most delightful houres were spent; and it was no great difficulty for a young Prince to entertain himself very pleasantly with a young handsome Woman, instructed by an old cunning Mother; who, in her youth, had at one time oblig'd more then four several *French* Gentlemen, whil'st they staid at *Casal*. The house of this Lady was not far from the Castle, in one of the faireſt Streets of the Town, in which place the Tennis Court was kept: the

Duke, who hated Tennis when he was at *Mantua*, took great delight in it at *Casal*; perhaps to shew his Mistriss his address; but, he spoyl'd his own design: For, he not being able to take his Eyes from the Window where she was, he hardly stroke one Ball of three. It was no small diversion to the spectators, to see those two Lovers speak with their Eyes and Hands, and use a thousand other pleasant Gestures, in that place, where there was constantly more persons assembled to observe them, then to see the good play of those that were at Tennis: In the mean time jealousie seiz'd furiously upon all the Ladies in that place; but, amongst them all, it chiefly laid hold of a young Woman whose name was *Nata*, Grandchild to the President; she almost dyed with envy at the Dukes Courtship to the Lady *Margaret*, believing her self much handsomer than her Cousin the Lady *Margaret*; and had great desires (at least) to share with her in the Dukes Affection: and her Grief increased the more from the vexation she had, to see, that all her Beauty and Ornaments had not power e-

nough

nough to draw one kind look from his Highneſs, for whom ſhe had dreſt her ſelf to no purpoſe. The Duke never went to Play, but by his dearly Beloved *Margarets* command, his Linnen was alwayes brought to her Houſe; he ſcarce toucht the Ball three times, but away he muſt go to ſhift himſelf in her Chamber, leaving the reſt of the Players at Tennis, ſometimes three houres, to wait till he came down to make an end, which he ſometimes commanded them to do. A *French* Gentleman happning to be in the Tennis Court one day, was by chance on the Dukes ſide, who was gone up, as his Cuſtom was, to the Lady *Margaret*; this *Frenchman*, impatient (as thoſe of his Nation commonly are) at the Dukes giving ſo long a time to rub himſelf, fell into a paſſion, and ſaid publickly to one of his Camerades, If the Duke of *Mantua* muſt (as is reported) have the Command of the Imperial Army for the King of *Spain*, *Lombardy* will quickly be ours; for he takes up more time in changing his Shirt, then the *French* do in taking a Town.

There was no body but plainly saw this so often changing of Linnen was rather a pretence of the Dukes, than neceſſity; nothing moving him to run up to her Chamber, but ſome Amorous fancy, which the ſight of her at the Window awaken'd in him; and there was great reaſon to believe it, for ſhe never ſtirr'd out of the Balcony as long as the Prince was in the Tennis Court; but, immediately vaniſh'd when he went out to go to her Chamber; and, aſſoon as he was got into the Street, to return to his Play, ſhe appear'd in the Balcony again: which diſcover'd eaſily, that he ſought no pleaſure, but that, of being near his Goddeſs; and ſhe glory'd in nothing more, then to let the People ſee, ſhe had been giving him his Shirt.

In the mean time the Mother of this young Lady, and alſo the Duke, began ſeriouſly to think, of finding out a Match for this beloved *Margaret*, who wanted no pretenders, her power being ſo great with the Duke; who, in this deſign, to Marry her, intended not ſo to rid himſelf of her, whom he lov'd paſſionately: Nor did the old

Mother

Mother resolve so to lose her; but, they took this way, to disguise those shameful effects, which usually follow these kind of dishonest Passions, as it ordinarily happens in *Italy*, where the Husband often serves for a Cover: For, an unmarryed Woman, though she is Courted by a Prince, is lookt upon in that Country as infamous, if she entertain him; But on the contrary, let a Marryed Woman be never so impudent, she is nevertheless very well receiv'd amongst all Ladies of the greatest quallity.

The Family of this Lady *Margaret* had been so blasted by the abominable carriage of her Mother with the *Frenchmen*, and the *Spaniards*; her eldest Sister particularly, whose name was the Countess *Louize*, lately a Widow, had been notorious, and had liv'd the life of a common Curtizan, taking Mony of any body; living that kind of life, which is so much practised amongst those Women, so well known by Travellors; she fell in love with a *Frenchman*, who came off better cheap, and almost for a simple Grand Mercy; he being, as one may say, more Courted

by that young Widow, then he took for, which made her fall into strange diſorders, when he was forc'd to return into *France* with the *French* Army, in which he was an Officer, and left that poor diſconſolate Widow to re-take that habit of Mourning ſhe had ſo lately quitted; and, it is believ'd, ſhe had remain'd unconſolable, if the *Frenchmans* place had not been kindly taken up by a young Earle in *Caſal*; but, what was moſt remarkable, was this Counteſſes flattering her ſelf with the hopes of Marrying this young Earle, by the Credit her Siſter had with the Duke, and his Authority; ſhe gave him all the Liberties imaginable, and they liv'd together like Man and Wife, with ſo publick a Scandal, that the Biſhop intended to Excommunicate them, but was ſoon prevented from that trouble; for, the young Earle at laſt cloyed with the Embraces of that Lady, and weary of her Addreſſes, began to leave her off by little and little; which, the Counteſs perceiving, addreſs'd her ſelf to her Siſter, deſiring her to perſwade the Duke, to Command the Earle to Marry her; which, when the

Duke

Duke went about to do, the young Earle briskly answered; Sir, The Earles of *Casal* do not use to Marry Whores: Thus this poor abus'd Countess sought her satisfaction in her patience, and try'd no more that vain attempt, of Marrying the Earle by the Dukes Authority and Justice, as her Sister incouraged her to hope; for the Earle Swore, he would rather a thousand times die a Man of Spirit, then live a base Cuckold: So the Countess seeing Force would do her no good, employ'd Mildness and Caresses to gain him; but the Earle being well acquainted with the Crafts of Women, us'd his opportunities, took some times his pleasure, and derided Matrimony: Nevertheless the Lady *Margaret* had pretenders good store, who were drawn more by their Ambition, because of the Empire she had over the Duke, then by any other Motive; whil'st she minded nothing more then the enjoying her pleasures at full liberty, which she could only do by getting a Husband quickly; but a Husband of her own chusing, fit for the purpose; that is to say, a good honest Man, and one as the *Italian* sayes,

Un gran cog, &c. —— The Mother and Daughter both jump'd in this opinion; the Mother fearing, that if her Daughter ſhould chance to fall into the hands of ſome Fantaſtick Husband, ſhe might loſe all her authority over her; and they both together fear'd, that his ill humour might be the occaſion of ruining her Favour with the Duke, and ſo they ſhould be quite undone, and loſe all their hopes. The Duke alſo was mindful of his own intereſt in that Affair, and conſented not to the Marriage of his Miſtreſs but upon thoſe termes; chuſing rather to poſſeſs her in that condition ſhe was already, then loſe her in another. The Dutcheſs, on her ſide, conſidering the Intereſt of State, the conſervation of the Houſe of *Gonzague*, and for the general ſatisfaction of her Subjects, looking upon the Duke as the onely prop of her Family, deſir'd, and ſought nothing more then to ſee this Lady *Margaret* Marryed away; fearing, leaſt the Duke might, loſing himſelf in this extreame ridiculous Love for her, think of Marrying her himſelf: At that time there came to *Caſal* the Earl of

Rovera,

Rovera, a man made for their purpoſe, and made as ſuch a man ſhould be; he he was born at *Savona*, and deſcended from that noble Family of *Rovera*, which has given to the Church thoſe two famous Popes *Sixtus* the fourth, and *Julius* the ſecond. The humour of this Lord was very peaceable and retired, not caring to ſee any body but thoſe of his old acquaintance. In fine, he was a true Ball for theſe Ladies to toſs, and ſuch a one as the Duke, the mother and daughter all deſired; and to ſpeak him in one word, he was of a humour to let them do what they pleas'd, and go were they had a mind to; and though he was not a man of great Learning, yet he was for all that, a man of very good ſenſe, and his wit was capable of ſerving him better than his Language.

The deſign of this Earl had been to paſs his Life in a ſingle condition, if the ſollicitations of the Duke, and the Lady *Margaret* (who was reſolv'd not to let ſlip this occaſion) had not alter'd his reſolutions, and from the firſt day he made her a viſit, put him into a condition of not being able to live one

day

day without seeing her: Whil'st they were treating of this marriage, the Lady *Margaret*, to try whether the Earl were of a jealous humour, pretended one day (as he sat musing by himself in her Chamber) that the Duke had sent for her to play at Cards with him, so that she should be oblig'd to stay there with her mother till the next day; and to perswade the Earl absolutely to believe the Duke loved her passionately, She told him, That the Duke loving her as he did, she could do no less than to satisfie him in all things that depended upon her: but the Earl not understanding her, or at least, pretending not to know her meaning, onely answer'd, She would do very well to serve his Highness, and so went away.

One of the neerest kindred to the Earl, hearing of this intended marriage, went to him with design to speak freely to him concerning it as a Friend, and told him, he ought to think more than once upon what he was going to do, and that he should seriously consider, (before he proceeded any further) upon the love between the Duke and the Lady *Margaret*; but the Earl answer'd,

Matri-

Matrimony will break that Friendſhip. That ſame Friend of his indeavour'd to prove the contrary to him by a hundred reaſons, but could get no other anſwer from him (after he had thankt him kindly for his advice) but this, The horns that are grafted by a Prince do not ſit heavy upon the head. Two days after another of his Friends told him openly, that for his part he would not marry that young Lady for any thing in the world, becauſe that as long as the Duke lived, he could not refrain from being jealous, and ſhould aſſuredly die a Cuckold. This ſecond advice amaz'd the Earl a little, yet he ſaid onely that he believed nothing of all theſe reports. In the mean time this renewed advice wrought ſuch an effect, that he went not to ſee his Miſtreſs in two days, but love being ſtronger, he could not refrain from viſiting her again, ſo great was his deſire to marry her and make her his dear half.

The Duke ſeem'd to take no notice of all theſe Paſſages, (though they made a noiſe great enough,) but waited till the Earl ſpoke to himſelf about it, which he at laſt did, at the ſolicitation

of

of the mother, who let him know that her house had been always protected by his Highness, and her daughter in particular, to whom the Duke had always expressed much friendship, and she could do nothing without his Highness consent and approbation. The Earl answer'd her presently, That all Gentlemen were as much oblig'd to this duty, and that they were not wont to marry without they were certain of the Princes assent, and therefore it was his duty to do the same thing; after this reply he parted from her to go to the Duke, that old Lady having promis'd him to do the like in behalf of her daughter. The Earl had scarce began his complement to the Duke concerning his marriage with the Lady *Margaret*, when the Duke interrupted him to speak to him advantageously of her Family and her Person, assuring the Earl of his affection and protection in all things; and to let him see how much he approv'd of this marriage, he told him with a great demonstration of love, that he was certain that one or both could not but be happy, since it was impossible for him to find a more excel-

lent

lent woman nor more worthy of such a husband, nor for her to find a husband more worthy of such a wife. The Earl after he had paid his respects and deserv'd thanks to the Duke, said to him, I marry the Lady *Margaret*, because she is protected by your Highness. To which the Duke presently replyed, laughing, We will love the Lady *Margaret*, and we will love her until death, having been brought up together from the beginnings of our life. The Duke after he had discours'd a long time with the Earl concerning the particularities of this wedding, took him by the hand, and said to him, Go, my Lord, you will gather a Flower, worthy of such a *Rovera*. My Tree (said the Earl) wants a Flower which comes from the hands of your Highness. This marriage then concluded to the satisfaction of the interested parties, they received all the Complements, and made their Balls and Feasts *a la mode de France*, which had been masters of *Casal* more then fifteen years, and had so well establish'd the French Liberty in that Town to the delight of the inhabitants, that they resolv'd to keep it for ever; and it is certain,

certain, that if they were to change their master, they would accept of no other but the most Christian King; so well do they remain satisfied with the French Nation, which is a thing extraordinary in *Italy*, where they are commonly so much hated, though the *Italians* can give no reason for their aversion to those People: For it is most certain, that in those Places of *Italy* where any of the French inhabit, they bring in one moneth more profit to that place, than the *Spaniards* afford them in ten year. The Duke, although invited to this wedding, could not resolve upon any consideration, to see his Lady *Margaret* given away, to whom he writ this Letter.

My Heart,

IF I thought that thy Marriage would deprive me of those Priviledges I have hitherto injoyed with thee, for certain I should rejoyce very little at it, but I do rejoyce, because I assure my self thou marriest with a resolution to give thy Husband but the leavings of our love: here-

herefore we have been forc'd to do all things ſecretly to hide them from all the world; but from this day we ſhall find it more eaſie to conceal our actions from onely one man; give him the appearances, but do thou be ſure to keep thy heart for me, and remember that I am wholly thine.

Charles.

The Duke let ſlip no occaſion of being preſent at all the Balls that were preſented to the Bride in ſeveral places; and one day he was in a dreſs that diſguized him ſo much, that he had never been diſcovered but by his great Familiarity with the Bride. The Duke having taken notice of a Diamond upon the Bridegrooms finger in the faſhion of a Heart, which himſelf had given his Lady *Margaret*, when ſhe was a maid, and was eſteemed worth a thouſand Crowns, was ſo extreamly angry to ſee the Earl wear it, that he reſolv'd to go away from *Caſal* without ſpeaking to her, but ſhe having ſmoakt him, us'd all her endeavour to appeaſe him, and bring him back again, proteſting

testing he was in a mistake, to believe she had given that Ring to her Husband, which she esteem'd so much for his Highness sake, as the pledge of his affection, that it was more dear to her than any thing in the world. The Duke softned by her tears, dried them up, not with a handkercher, but with his kisses, and after that staid in her Chamber with her for some hours that day.

The wedding was kept with so great pomp and magnificence, that there wanted nothing but the publick presence of the Duke, who though he refus'd to appear there in person, yet to shew how much he honour'd them, he sent the Bride a Medal of gold, in which was a Daizy, (which signifies *Margaret*) set round with twelve Diamonds, and two Chains of great value, which he accompanied with this note,

I advise thee to be cautious in thy captivating thy self, and consider; if thou art a prisoner to two persons, it will not be easie to cheat both thy keepers.

The love of the Duke to the Countess

Counteſs ſeem'd after this wedding to grow by little and little ſomething cool, but it was but a feigned coldneſs; For he often found his opportunities of entertaining her in private during his ſtay at *Caſal*. The Earl us'd all the art he was capable of to ſurprize his wife in her private conferences with the Duke, but in vain; ſo that at laſt he began to believe ſhe had been ſlander'd, and ſo reſted in peace, giving her all kind of Liberty; who had wit enough to make the right uſe of it, and contented the Husband in publick, and the Gallant in private; but ſince now the Time and Neceſſity of the State ſeem'd to demand a Succeſſour to the Duke, ſo to conſerve that rich Patrimony ſtill in the ſame Houſe where it had long continued, and there being no other branch left of the houſe of *Gonzague* but himſelf; The whole State begun now to think in good earneſt of marrying him to ſome Princeſs worthy of ſo great a Prince; many matches were propos'd, but heaven, that ordinarily takes care of making marriages, ordain'd the Archduchess *Iſabella Clare*, a Princeſs worthy of a Crown, to be this Dukes

wife, and ſhould by her Life and Patience adde a new luſtre to the houſe of *Gonzague*; ſome other woman perhaps would have brought the ſame diſorder into that houſe (and it may be a worſe) than that which the houſe of *Lorraine* experimented in the love which the Duke *Charles* of *Lorraine* expreſs'd for the Counteſs of *Cantecroy*, to the prejudice of that affection which he owed to his wife *Nicola*. The Ducheſs, who notwithſtanding all the indifferency which ſhe ſaw in her husband towards her, ſhe expreſs'd not the leaſt jealouſie of the Counteſs, and although ſhe ſaw in a little time her husband abſolutely eſtranged from her, and engag'd altogether in the love of that woman, yet ſhe look'd no leſs kindly upon the Duke her husband, even whil'ſt the Counteſs endeavoured to keep him from her by all the wayes poſſible, having writ this Letter to him, notwithſtanding ſhe knew his Marriage with the Ducheſs was concluded.

Great

Great Prince,

I Am not ignorant that the marriage of your Highneſs with the Archdutcheſs Iſabella Clare, *will bring an increaſe to your Family, a glory to your State, and a comfort to your ſervants, but as faſt as the joy of poſſeſſing ſo great a Prince does grow in the heart of the Archdutcheſs, that of my heart will diminiſh in the loſs I am to ſuffer, of a heart that was alwayes the object of my love, and all my deſires: I hope your Highneſs will pardon me for writing to you in this manner, but in the condition I am in of looſing what I adore, I can be no longer any thing elſe but an extravagant without conduct or reaſon; but if your Highneſs has been pleaſed to honour me hitherto by loving me as a Friend; I deſire you will at leaſt continue your grace and favour to me in loving, for the time to come, as your moſt humble ſervant*

Margaret.

The Duke, who lov'd the Countess above his own reputation, after he had read her Letter two or three times over, sighing, in the presence of a brother of hers who brought it to him, tore it, after he had answer'd it, with much tenderness in these words,

Countess,

All Princes are accustomed to marry themselves more by reason of State then Love; so they love their wives more by reason of State than by affection. If the interest of my house did not oblige me to marry, nothing should hinder me from being always thine, whose I shall be, in despight of all those that would oppose it; and since thou hast deceiv'd thy husband to content me, why cannot I deceive my wife for thy satisfaction? trouble thy self for nothing, and love thy

Charles.

Although

Although the furious warres in the year 1629. had very much exhauſted the treaſure of that State, yet the Ducheſs in this time of the marrying of her ſon ſpar'd for no coſt, to render it very ſplendid and magnificent; all the Ladies of Honour that had liv'd in that Court were invited to make the entry of the new Princeſs into *Mantua* more glorious. There was none excepted in that invitation but the Counteſs, who the Ducheſs would not invite to that Ceremony, for ſome reaſons, which, mortification to the Counteſs ſhe ſoon after complain'd of to the Duke, and her reſentment was heightned by her being, as it were, baniſh'd from the Court in a time when the Earl her husband had receiv'd one of the chiefeſt Imployments for the Ceremony of that Entry; of which place he very well acquitted himſelf to the Contentment of the Duke his maſter: yet notwithſtanding all this, the Counteſs would go to *Mantua*, and adorn'd her ſelf with all the gallantries that fine Ladies take at thoſe times to ſet themſelves off at Court, whither ſhe went to ſee the

new Dutchess, where at last the Dutchess mother to the Duke, gave her leave to stay to take part in the divertizements of the Balls, which were given there for many dayes together. The first great Ball pass'd without the Duke seeming to take any notice of his Lady *Margaret*; and although there was more of Prudence than coldness of affection in this carriage of his, yet the Countess could hardly refrain from expressing those sighes of anger and jealousie which seiz'd upon her heart, imagining that the Duke satisfied with the beauty and carresses of his Bride, began to neglect her charmes, which had so long captivated him; she omitted no opportunity of speaking to the Duke, who understood her, and yet avoided talking with her, though he did not forget to cause her to be taken out to dance as well as the other Ladies of Quality, to whom Princes always apply themselves to do them chief honour at those times. But this politick dissimulation of the Dukes cold carriage to the Countess continued but a little while: for before she return'd to *Casal* with her husband, his Highness would

would see her, and discours'd with her, above an hour in private. I know not in what place they met, but the Marquess of *Arrigone* passing by the place where the Duke and she were talking, and perceiving them together, Your Highness (said he) goes back to the *Sicut erat*, before you begin the Psalm.

The Countess went away very well satisfied, after this conference with the Duke, which made it believ'd that his Highness confirm'd the protestations of his constancy to her; but it was impossible for her husband to discover the reason of that great joy which was in her face at their return to *Casal*.

These beginnings of the Dukes Marriage, though they past thus coldly, yet it was not to be imagin'd that it would continue so long, although it is true, that the Thoughts and Affaires of Princes dispenses them in some sort from the ordinary practisers of inferiour People: and, most People imagine, the Prince has perform'd his duty well enough, if he has got his Wife with Child; nevertheless, this Duke *Charles*, whether it were through the

tenderneſs of his Age, having ſcarce yet arrived to his one and twentieth year; or through ſome other reaſon, he ceaſed not for three moneths together to Careſs the Dutcheſs his Wife with all ſort of kindneſs; not only before his familiar Friends, but alſo in the preſence of the *Embaſſadors* themſelves, which was a great contentment to the Dutcheſs his Mother: but 3 Moneths after that, ſome buſineſs at *Montferrat*, or, as it is conjectur'd, the Love to the Counteſs, who deſir'd him impatiently, or as ſome perſwaded themſelves, to leave the Dutcheſs at repoſe, obliged the Duke to go to *Caſal*; This Voyage a little alter'd the Dukes Affection to the Dutcheſs his Wife, if one may give the name of Affection to a Love ſo newly planted, whoſe Rootes were yet but ſmall and tender; the ſight of the Counteſs made him forget his Wife: and, it was obſerv'd, he had never taken ſo great a delight in Careſſing of the Dutcheſs, as he took onely in ſpeaking with the Counteſs: but, becauſe the preſence of the Husband was an Obſtacle to their pleaſures, he found out a way by a pretence of buſi-

neſs

neſs to ſend him to *Mantua*: The Earle, who had from the firſt night of the Dukes arriving at *Caſal*, taken better notice of ſome paſſages he was troubled to diſcover, began then to believe, what till then he had but ſuſpected; nevertheleſs he muſt go by his Prince's Command, without ſhewing any repugnance for that journey: but, at his return, he receiv'd an account of all had paſſed from a waiting Maid, to whom he had made great promiſes of Reward, with Oaths to perform them, to be a faithful Spy for him, of what paſs'd between the Duke, and his Wife, in his abſence; ſhe promis'd the Earle, to give him an exact Account; but, it was not very difficult for her (the Counteſs not miſtruſting her) to find out the moſt private paſſages for this intelligence. The Earle had fooliſhly believed, that all the Dukes Love had no other Concluſion but Playing at Cards, and perhaps ſome little *French* Freedomes with his Wife; imagining, that her Brothers and Kindred, that were intereſted in the ſame reputation, would have prevented any further ill, but he deceiv'd himſelf; For, they

were

were of the opinion he himſelf had
firſt declar'd, (that the Hornes Graft
ed by a Prince did not ſit uneaſily upo
the Head) and were ſo far from watch
ing the Actions of the Duke, and the
Kinſwoman, to prevent the ſhame o
their Houſe, that they were very of
ficious to bring them together, and
ſerving the Dukes Loves with all ima
ginable care and diligence; and the
chiefe amongſt them in this imploy
ment, was he, whom the Duke ha
lately made Maſter of the Artillery a
Caſal; it was he that convey'd by nigh
his Siſter into the Dukes Chamber, and
moſt commonly kept the Door, watch
ing with the Male that was to carry back
his Siſter to her own Lodging, when
ſhe had pleaſur'd the Duke: In truth
this Amour grew very ſtrong in this
laſt Journey; the one began to hate
her Husband, to ſatisfie her Gallant;
the other, to deſpiſe his Wife, to give
himſelf intirely to his Friend; and this
was plainly perceiv'd by what happen
ed after the Dukes return to *Mantua*;
where he diſcover'd (to the great aſto
niſhment of all the World) that he
was Cloyed of his Wife: No body be
ing

ing able to imagine, how a young Prince could possibly be weary so soon of a young Princess, who also was newly prov'd with Child, to the great Joy of the whole Court; whil'st in the mean time that chast Dove knew not what to think of a Husband so young who expreſt so little Love to her; and nevertheless, although her Grief at it was great, yet her Prudence was greater; so that she pretended not to see that which she but too much discover'd: The Earle, which the Duke had taken order to send away to *Mantua*, was commanded not to stir from thence till his Highness return'd, which he obey'd; and the Duke was no sooner arrived in the Town, but he sent him back to his own House; where his Curiosity cost him dear, and gave him no small Mortification; the Servant he had imploy'd to watch, having given him the whole Relation of all had past between the Duke and his Wife: the shame and confusion of this poor Man is not to be expréss'd, when he learnt the circumstances of this Impudent Love countenanc'd by the baseness of his Wives own Brothers; and although he

he seem'd to take no notice of what he too well knew, nor hearkned to the Discourses of his Friends upon that Chapter; yet, he could not imagine, that the Crimes of his Wife, and his own misfortune was so publick: his melancholly grew to that height, that he saw not any body that Saluted him in the Streets; and he fancyed every minute, that People were making Hornes at him behind his back: The Countess, who had a good Nose, smelt out the reason of the Change in her Husbands Humour, and redoubled her Caresses to him; fearing, least this jealousie which he appear'd so insensible of before his Marriage, might produce some unhappy effect; for, it is certain, that had she known him to be of a jealous humour, she would never have Marryed him.

In the mean time, as the Earle and his Countess walked one evening after Supper upon the Town Walls, the Earl ask'd his Wife, Did his Highness waite upon you often? As he was wont, reply'd she; (seeing to what end he spoke it:) And, What did you do together, said the Earle? to which, she answer'd,

The

The ſame that you did with the *Dutcheſs* at *Mantua*. Thus they both rallyed one another. The Husband perceiving what it was to have ſuch a Wife, and the wife lamented the trouble of having ſuch a Husband: yet nevertheleſs the Earles jealouſies had ſome intermiſſions, his Melancholly often giving place to his Joy; ſo that his Wife, and Brothers in-Law felt ſome time the effects of the one, and then of the other. Whil'ſt theſe things paſs'd in the Year 1652, the Dutcheſs was brought to bed of a Son, which is now the onely Prop of the Houſe of *Gonzague*; the Conſolation of his Mother; the Glory and Hope of the State, to which he gives great hopes, promiſing very much, ſhewing himſelf a great and brave Prince, and expreſſing averſion for an idle lazy life; and, on the contrary, a great inclination for all the exerciſes of Warr: It is believed, that ſince the Birth of that young Prince, the Duke convers'd not with the Dutcheſs as his Wife; the reaſon of this opinion is his aſſiduous love to the Counteſs, as alſo becauſe the Dutcheſs has not been with Child from that time.

This

This indifference of the Duke to
wards the Dutchess was also impu
to two other causes; the first, to
Natural coldness; the other, to I kn
not what strange devise of the Counte
the last scarce is doubted of; for, as
port has said, this Woman fearing
lose the Dukes Friendship after
Marriage, and seeking to injoy alone
good, without which she despis'd all o
thers; resolv'd to tempt all wayes to pr
vent that, which she thought an obstac
to her design; to that end, having to
her thoughts to one of her Sisters, sh
by her meanes, became acquainted wit
a certain Magician, who dwelt at S
Sauveur, near to *Casal*; the Counte
went to him, and obtain'd some word
from him; That he bid her be con
fident she should enjoy the Duke
Friendship alone: but, because thi
Sorcerer was of an intelligence wit
a certain Religious Dominican, tha
Lady gain'd him by his meanes; sh
rewarding him, by not refusing him the
satisfaction he requir'd of her: so, af
ter that this Charme succeeded so well
by the help of this Reverend Father;
that by their Diabolical Inventions, the

Duke

Duke had that knot tyed, uſually ſo fatal to Marriage: Others have believ'd that this was a falſe report, and that this Witchcraft took no effect, but that the Duke made it a pretext to avoid the Dutcheſs, whom he lov'd not; and devote himſelf to the Counteſs, whom he ador'd, in which there is no likelihood: For, let any body imagine how it can be poſſible for a young Prince to live in the company of his Wife without touching her, if there had not been ſome reaſon diabolical, or ſupernatural to hinder him: ſo, that it muſt certainly be believ'd, that the Counteſs did bewitch the Duke.

The old Dutcheſs, troubled at the Dukes infirmity, told him he ſhould make uſe of ſome ſpiritual or natural remedies to cure him, but (what was very ſtrange) he laught at her advice, which made people believe that it was done by his own conſent.

It has been ſaid that that natural coldneſs of the young Ducheſs, compar'd to the Conſtitution (ſo contrary) of the Counteſs, contributed very much for the ſmall affection he had for her: but how could the Ducheſs leave

off

off that purity so rare and commend-
ble, which she had alwayes made th
ornament of her life, to comply wi
the Dukes desires, and which he fou
in another? There is no doubt h
that she lov'd as much as any oth
woman could do, but with a sincer
true and real love, for to say truth; sh
was not in the number of those th
onely made a shew of love, but sh
lov'd her husband from the botto
of her heart; so that all her affectio
was within, having not those litt
fooliſh fondneſſes which some oth
wives ſtudy with ſo much affectatio
to ſhew their loves: In a word, her af-
fection was truly great, though ſhe di
not make ſhew of it; but to clear al
this, I think it to ſome purpoſe to ſa
ſomething by the way, to diſcove
what the Dukes inclinations were na-
turally, and alſo of that of the Counte
Margaret.

All men naturally take great de-
light in the Careſſes they receive; it i
certain that the Duke was more in-
clin'd to that ſatisfaction than any man
ſo that it may almoſt be ſaid, that
weakneſs was a fault of nature in him

who

who so desired to be courted by the women, without which, it is thought, the Duke would have been insensible for them; they say that this inclination of the Dukes was caus'd by the Conversation of the Ladies of the Court, amongst whom he was brought up, and spent most of his youth, having alwayes been caress'd by one or other of those Ladies that waited on his Mother, who lov'd nothing more than to see the women make much of him, and to be under the conduct of that sex, and particularly the Lady *Margaret*, who had so us'd him to her carresses, that he could not think of carressing his wife, if he were not prepar'd by hers, which is a thing that seldom happens, but what the one could not do, the other was perfect in, and exercis'd her art so to the humour of the Duke, that he could not defend himself from her Charms, though he had a mind to it, also the Countess was liberal enough of her Courtships to him, mov'd rather by ambition to domineer and govern the Duke, than by any sentiment of nature, which is believ'd by the little care she took to

court her husband at that rate; and certainly the very *Sirenes* and *Circe* were never capable of more inticements and flattering carresses than she us'd to please the Duke.

See here the poison of this Marriage, see here the Fall of the Dukes reputation; a Princess too modest and little sensible of Carresses, and a Prince too desirous of those kind of Charms and on the other side, a woman experienc'd in all the crafts of Love, to gain the heart of this Prince, and take it from the Princess, and it is stedfastly believ'd, that if the Princess had been of her rivals humour, the Duke would have lov'd her as well as he lov'd the Countess, and had been as good a Husband as he was a Lover; and that if the Countess had not understood the way of treating him in another manner than the Duchess did, without doubt he would have had no greater a Complasance for her; but yet it was better for the Princess to be as she was, than to be of the humour of her rival: In the mean time, it is easie to be believ'd, that the excessive carresses which the Countess made

that Duke made him not only hate the Ducheſs in the way of Matrimony, but alſo to abhorre Marriage it ſelf for her ſake: for to juſtifie this opinion, he was quite contrary to the cuſtome of other Princes, who delight in change; for he could indure to ſee no other woman but the Counteſs, and it is certainly reported, that except his wife, he never touch'd any other woman but the Counteſs, who was his ordinary Meal every day, and his Feaſt alſo; however one day he was angry at her for ſomething, he to vex her ſent for a young very pretty woman of the town of *Caſal*, and becauſe in that rencounter there happened a very pleaſant paſſage, I think it neceſſary enough to mention it in this place in few words: This young Maid liv'd in a houſe on the back-ſide of the Church of the *Auguſtin* Fathers in a ſtreet great enough, the Duke having often paſs'd that way with the Counteſs, fail'd not to look upon her ſtill being at the door on purpoſe to be ſeen by the Duke; This happened a little after the depart of the Earl in his voyage to *Poland*, the Duke rather

to laugh than for any other design, ſe
ing this young woman, us'd to ſay t
the Counteſs, That wench is hand
ſomer than thou art; It is true, ſaid th
Counteſs, (peek'd with jealouſie) bu
ſhe has fewer charmes, therefore I dou
fear that ſhe will deprive me of yo
love, which is apter to be taken wi
agreeableneſs than beauty; but wh
pleaſure does your Highneſs take t
break my head with jealouſie?

One night when the Duke was angry
at her, or counterfeited himſelf ſo, t
vex the Counteſs, to trouble her brain
yet more, he ſent word to that young
woman by one of the Grooms of hi
Chamber, (who was the ſame that us'd
to wait upon the Counteſs to hi
Chamber at night in the Caſtle) that
he would ſpeak with her, and that he
ſhould expect her after Supper. Her
mother, who underſtood this myſtery,
ſaid to the Meſſenger, The words of hi
Highneſs cannot but produce great
grace to my Daughter, who is wholly
at his ſervice.

The hour come, the Groom of the
Chamber went to execute the Orders
of his Maſter, and to conduct this
young

young Maid into his Chamber, (I will not ſay into the bed) but the Counteſs, being inform'd by the ſame man, who was her kinſman and a very good friend of hers, ran preſently to the Palace, where having found that Prey, without taking notice of any thing, ran to the Dukes apartement, and preſented her ſelf to the Duke, to make him change his reſolutions, who being made tender by her carreſſes, he caſt himſelf into her arms, whil'ſt the Groom of the Chamber, too crafty to looſe ſo good an occaſion, conducted the young woman, which he had brought, into his own Chamber, where he made her ſtay and lye with him; ſo that ſhe ſaw her ſelf conſtrain'd to receive from the man what ſhe expected from the maſter. In the mean time her mother, taking hold on this occaſion, bragg'd every where that her daughter had great Familiarities with the Duke, to whom nevertheleſs ſhe had not ſo much as ſpoke a word. The Duke being with his well-beloved, was in ſome apprehenſions that the Groom of his Chamber might ſurprize them with that young wench he had ſent for, but

he found afterwards that all thing
were carried very well. The Counte
of her ſide, reproached the Duke ve
much for his lightneſs and the injuſti
he did her in going about to change
love which he had experienc'd ſo lon
for one that was ſo new, and beſide
which was not worth the trouble. Th
Duke excus'd himſelf, ſaying, All th
was but in jeſt, and to make her jealou
from whom he receiv'd thoſe deligh
anew, which ordinarily is found in th
reconcilements of Lovers. But, ſaid th
Counteſs, what did that young Wen
do in your Palace. The Duke quickl
replyed, That if ſhe were come thithe
it was for his *valet de Chambre*, and no
for him. Your Highneſs then (ſaid th
Counteſs) ſerves the Loves of you
valet de Chambre. Thus the pleaſur
baniſh'd the ſuſpicions, and the pea
was concluded without much pain.

In the mean time, the youn
Ducheſs, too well inform'd of this u
ruly life, the Duke led with th
Counteſs *Margaret*, could not defen
her heart from ſuffering all thoſe to
ments which an honeſt and vertuo
wife uſually feels upon ſuch an occa
ſion.

sion. She made some tell the Duke her Husband of it, desiring him to stop the Course of that disorder, which was his shame, and the scandal of his people: Her Prudence made her conceal her grief, and her Vertue oblig'd her to stifle those reproaches she might have made to the Dukes infidelity, which would draw upon him the hatred and scorn of other Princes, amongst whom at that time there was not heard of the like. The Duke could not hear the lawful reproaches of his wife the Duchess without being touch'd with the remorse of his crime; but if he set before his eyes the wrong and injury which he did to the goodness and fidelity of his wife, he faild not also to represent to himself how little it was in his power to leave off loving the Countess. Thus the mortification which he receiv'd from the reproaches was made to him served to no other end but to put him into a condition of not knowing which side to take; he knew his crime, but he could not hate the cause; and it was impossible for him to banish out of his soul his love to the Countess, to place the Duchess

in her room; and although he wanted love for his wife, yet he wanted not reason to know his disorder; so that he sought to sweeten the just resentments of the Dutchess by all kind of submissions, in which he let the world see that he was very well skill'd in saving (as 'tis said) both the Cabbidge and the kid: people wonder'd how he could so well both please his wife and his Mistress, and how it came to pass that the deceived Dutchess remain'd better satisfied than did the Countess, who effectually receiv'd from his Highness all kind of satisfaction, who wanted nothing that she could desire from him; but it was to be wish'd that the Dutchess could have also the same pretensions that the Countess had.

All that the Duke and the Countess did had no other end but to seek out wayes to injoy one another more often, which happen'd as they wish'd. The one studied to deceive her Husband, and the other his Wife: But to speak truth, the Countess found it a harder task to cheat her Husband, than the Duke found in deceiving the Dutchess his Wife: for this poor unfortunate

Lady

Lady perceiving that this was an incurable evil and desperate, by a great Prudence shut her eyes almost, that she might not see the disorders of her Husband; whil'st on the other side the Earl watch'd his wife, the more that he saw her give her self up to the love of the Duke, to her great dishonour and loss of her own reputation, and he had just reason for doing so: for since they were not asham'd to act their worthy affairs almost before all the world, notwithstanding all the diligence of the Earl to watch them; what would they not have done, if he had winkt at their excellent Carriage?

If these two Lovers had been contented to do all in secret, the Earl had not been much disquieted, nor had he taken what they did into his consideration, but had rather, would have seem'd to have receiv'd some satisfaction in the hopes of being well us'd by the Duke, and to have receiv'd honours from him in the sight of the world: For all his great trouble arose from the publick scandal, and the opinion he had conceiv'd, that every body fancied he complyed with these amours,

amours, and thus it made him sick at heart, to be counted not onely a base man, but an infamous voluntary Cuckold, and publickly to be despis'd as such a person: He never reflected upon the Nobility of his House, descended originally from great Princes, who had alwayes liv'd honourably, and had mantain'd themselves for many years by a very advantageous reputation, without ever receiving any stain, but those reflections made him repent he had married a wife, whose carriage so much dishonour'd that illustrious Family of his; and the good fame his Predecessours had acquired by their honest Lives; his anger kindled a thousand times in his heart the desire of revenge, but the fear of some thing worse happening to him, and to loose not onely his fortune but also his life, stifled all those thoughts in him. Shall I say furthermore, the apprehension of a sad end and an untimely death hinder'd him often from complaining to his wife of her wicked Carriage of herself; He durst not, I say, correct her in secret, or to threaten her, fearing that, she being warn'd by that, might procure

cure to him a violent death in revenge to his upbraids of her: so that he was often forc'd to pretend as if he had not seen those passages he saw too plainly, and to be ignorant of what he knew too well. But in fine, not being able to indure any longer a vexation that grew every moment, press'd with grief and shame, he resolv'd to go to *Savona*, to ask Counsel of his Parents, what course to take to deliver himself from a misfortune which was so cruel to him and so great; and he had scarce acosted them, when one amongst them reproach'd him of marrying a wife whether they would or no, who was the daughter of an unchast mother, the sister of a whore, and whose own honour was suspected then when he would so obstinately resolve to marry her, and her life since has prov'd what she was then. The poor Earl, extreamly mortified with these reproaches, could make no other answer, but that he never thought things would come to this pass; his Parents nevertheless not to leave him in this Sea of Confusion counsell'd him after they had comforted him a little, that he should

try

ny to remove his wife from *Casal* calmly and with Gentleness, to bring her to *Savona*, and there resolve to settle and live out the remainder of his days in his own Country.

This Earl tryed the way of following this good Counsel, believing for certain that absence would cool this love, and that time would make him forget what at the present was such a heart-breaking to him, and caus'd him so much shame; being then return'd to *Casal*, he begun to try if he could work this miracle upon his wife, but all his indeavours were in vain; he told her his Parents desir'd her company very passionately amongst them, that the Ladies of that Town desir'd impatiently to injoy her company, to render her all the service and respect they thought due to her; he also prayed her to consider how advantageous the Promises of that Republick were to him of making him a great man, by the considerable imployments they would give him, and that she should assure herself he would spare no cost to give her all sort of contentments, and to that end he was resolv'd to purchase a little

but

but fair Lordſhip hard by the Sea-ſide, where in the Summer-time they would divert themſelves together, by all the agreeable divertiſements ſutable to perſons of their condition. In fine, to conclude in a word, he gave her many other politick and moral reaſons, ſo ſtrong and plauſible, that they would have been powerful enough to have convinc'd any body but her ſelf: but the good Counteſs did nothing but laugh at this diſcourſe, and without flattering him any further, told him plainly, That ſhe was not of an humour to quit her own for a ſtrange purchaſe, the certain for the uncertain, and that which ſhe was really poſſeſt of for a picture and ſhadow, that ſhe had not married her ſelf at *Caſal* with intention to dwell at *Savona*, that the contract of her marriage had made no mention of this change, and that he could by nothing in the world find a lawful excuſe to make her change her own Country; and if he pleas'd he might deſire to ſee his own Relations at *Savona*, but as for her ſhe would rather ſtay in the Company of her brothers at *Caſal*; and after all ſhe aſſur'd

him

him it was loſs of time to dream of that, becauſe ſhe was confident his Highneſs would never conſent to their parture, and yet to depart without his conſent it was blindly to precipitate her ruine, and thus the Earl was conſtrain'd to deſiſt from his enterprize, and ſaw himſelf oblig'd to arm himſelf with a new patience. The Counteſs the whileſt judging by theſe words, that he had a deſign to retire her from her Lover; imagining beſides, that her Husband had prepar'd for her at *Savona* ſome of thoſe Morſels which the *Italians* ordinarily give to their wives in the like Caſes, as it often happens in *Italy*; which made her ſeek an opportunity to ſpeak to the Duke, and having eaſily found him, as ſhe wiſh'd, ſhe having the Liberty to go and come to him at all hours, after ſhe had acoſted him and made her curtſie, ſhe told him at length the whole ſtory of her Husbands deſignes, not forgetting his very words in a manner, that ſhew'd how angry ſhe was at her Husband. This reſolution of his extreamly diſpleas'd the Duke, who lookt upon the Earl as very little politick,

politick, and not at all prudent, and thought it very ſtrange that for a foolish trifle (for he lookt upon the making a man a Cuckold nothing elſe) he would hazard the loſs of his favour in retiring from his ſervice, he was of opinion that the honours he conferr'd on the Earl was ſatisfaction enough for the honour he took from him, and that he had done him Favour great enough in making him one of the moſt conſiderable of his Court, which he had not done upon any conſideration in the world, but for the Love he had for the Counteſs.

But if the Earl conſulted his Parents at *Savona*, to carry the Counteſs thither out of *Caſal*, the Duke and ſhe conſulted at *Caſal* againſt him, and ſought out Pretences to abſent in good earneſt that obſtacle of their delights from them: for it was every day a new work, and every time that this Lover came to *Caſal* he was in trouble to invent ſome new pretext to be rid of him, to the end that he might ſupply his place with the Counteſs, and divert themſelves with more Liberty; But the Duke came ſo often

to

to *Casal*, and was so often put to his shifts to find out new pretexts of dismissing the Earl out of the way, that he was now at the bottom of his scrowl, and his invention being tyred, he knew not what to do next: these Lovers propounded many wayes to one another, whereof one was to shoot him privately with a Musquet, and pretend afterwards that the blow came from some of his enemies; but the Prince could not hearken to this resolution, not being willing, after the example of *David*, to add murther to his adultery, not being assured that he should repent as he did; besides, the Countess her self was not of a nature ever to give her consent to any actions of cruelty, the least in the world; or any that thus was an offence to the Holiness of Matrimony, notwithstanding the heat that appear'd in her first motions and passion against her husband. They had already sent him to *Rome*, twice to *Florence*, as many times to *Venice*, and I know not how many times to *Turin* and *Genes*. The Duke at last would send him into *France*, in the quality of an Ordinary Embassadour, but

but there were two obſtacles that hindred that; The hate and averſion the Earl ever bore to the French Nation, was one, and indeed his declared averſion to them was ſo unreaſonable, that he was us'd to ſay in all Companies where he came, that if he had the Keyes of Hell but one day, he would with his whole heart ſend all the Frenchmen thither, even to the Devils Palace, becauſe they had corrupted the City of *Caſal*, and by the introduction of their Liberty had ſo chang'd that Town *en bordeau*. Thus it appear'd not reaſonable to the Duke to ſend ſuch a man to treat with them. In the ſecond place, that which hindred the Earl from being ſent Embaſſadour into the Court of *France*, was, The Fear the Duke had he would cary his wife along with him, (as aſſuredly he had done;) and the Duke refuſing to let her go, would have diſoblig'd him too much, and given cauſe to an apparent ſcandal, and therefore this Propoſition took no effect, and ended juſt where it begun, as unprofitable to their deſign; but the reſolution was certainly taken to diſmiſs the Earl one way or other;

if not for ever, yet for a great while; but they endeavour'd to find out ways for their satisfaction that would suit with the glory of the Husband and honour of the Wife, which they look upon chiefly in this design. As for the absenting of her brothers, there was no thought of that; for they were very merry and well contented to see their Sister in the Dukes good graces, and envied one another, who should most contribute to the pleasures of the Duke and their Sister. The profit they receiv'd was so great by it, besides the considerable charges conferr'd upon them for their service in that trade; in truth those Gentlemen might well enough dissemble their trouble, to see their Sister live so disorder'd a life, and content themselves more easily to be the procurers of horns; since that office was not so great a dis-reputation to them as it was to the Earl that was the Husband, who was to endure not onely the publike knowledge of his dishonour, the injuries and reproaches of all the world, but also the pride and ill humour of his wife in his house, without daring to take notice of his being

being sent away from her, so often, whole weeks and moneths, which was insupportable to him: therefore it must not be wonder'd, if the Earl was weary of that life, as well as the Duke was of seeking out excuses to send him abroad, to injoy his wife with more Liberty, who at last thought of a way very fit for his design.

There is in the Kingdom of *Poland* a Marquess of *Gonzague*, very much esteem'd by all the people in that Countrey, who although they are not of the same line of the Dukes of *Mantua*, yet carry the same name, and arms, and are own'd by the Dukes of *Mantua* as kinsmen in all their Letters, which they send. It is true that this kindred gives them no manner of pretence to the hereditary Succession of the Duchy of *Mantua*, and *Marquisate* of *Montferat*: for the Duke of *Mantua*, who by the Emperours consent, at first acknowledged them of kin to him, only upon this condition, That they should be excluded from all pretences of Succession to that State.

The Duke then was of opinion that he might send the Earl into *Poland*, not

ſo much to make a viſit to the *Marquiſeſas* to be inform'd of the imployments, eſtate, and riches, and the intereſt they had in that Court; and to make his deſign hit the better, by the Earls making a longer ſtay in the journey than he expected, he order'd him to go not in the quality of an Ordinary Embaſſadour, but as a Gentleman traveller, who had no other end but to ſee the Countrey.

This reſolution taken between the Duke and the Counteſs, the Earl was ſent for to receive his Commiſſion, and what elſe was neceſſary for that voyage, and to prepare himſelf. The Duke gave him many wicked and falſe reaſons, the intereſt he had in being inform'd fully of the eſtate, and ranck which thoſe Lords held in the Court of *Poland*, and told him that he had already writ Letters of Recommendation of the Earl to them; in which, he had pretended that he was onely to paſs thorow that Kingdom; and had his Highneſs Commands to wait upon them from him, adding further, that he had willingly ſent him in the quality of Embaſſadour to their

King

King, who was his Highneſs's kinſman, but for his own convenience, and to ſave the great Charge which ſuch an Embaſſie would have coſt him, and alſo for better profiting in his deſign, which carried him thither, he thought it more neceſſary for him to go as a private Gentleman, who had a Curioſity of ſeeing the world, than in any other quality, becauſe that in that Condition he could better inform himſelf of the eſtate thoſe Lords, without ſuſpition.

The Earl perceiv'd very eaſily the Dukes deſign, and although he humbly acknowledg'd the Favour his Highneſs did him in calling him to that employment of truſt; yet he could not refrain from excuſing himſelf by telling the Duke, that ſuch a Commiſſion was more fit to be given to a Page, than to a man of his Quality.

The Duke who wanted neither wit nor cunning, would not receive his numerable excuſes, although I know not one which the Duke replyed to, which the Duke ſaid might have ſerv'd had his deſign been ſomething more than a private exact information

of the Condition in which his kinſmen were at the Court of *Poland*; upon which informations depended all his affairs with that Kingdom, which when he was ſatisfied of from his private voyage thither, he ſhould then proceed to the publick Embaſſie to the *Poliſh* King, in which he made choice of him; and to that end had given him firſt this private Commiſſion, as moſt fit for his deſignes, and therefore he order'd him to go as ſoon as he could poſſibly get himſelf in readineſs for ſuch a Voyage; to which the Earl gave no further reply but that he ſhould do all in his power to be ready to ſerve his Highneſs that hour he ſhould appoint him for this journey, in which, he plainly diſcover'd he had no good will for him.

In the beginning this order to go for *Poland* troubled him very much, and put a thouſand Fancies in his head, and repreſented many things to the trouble of his ſoul; but at laſt, after having well conſider'd it, he concluded it better for him to abſent himſelf than to ſtay and break his heart, by being an eye-witneſs of all the impudent

of his wife with the Duke, which were come to that pass, that they made no scruple, scarce, before his face: but that kinsman of his, which I spoke of before, who was aged, and an experienc'd man in all the intrigues of Court, and therefore had so disswaded the Earl from this Marriage, he having smelt the Dukes intention, and heard the report that the Earl was to be sent into *Poland*; as he was Elder than the Earl, so he spoke with more assurance, and without flattery told him, I see very well that horns will be very cheap. To which the Earl replyed, Cuckold for Cuckold, it is better to have horns made behind the back then before the Face.

The Earl had fifteen days given him to prepare for his Voyage, during which he took care of all things necessary for such a journey; he took leave of all his Friends, but in a manner told them that he gave them the last adieu: his brothers in law counselled him to serve his Highness with much zeal and affection; but he felt very well where his shoe wrung him, and thought within himself that all their Counsels had

no other end but, The dishonour of his wife their own Sister. In the mean time, he could so well act his part, and dissembled so well, that no body imagin'd that he went to *Poland* against his will, he appear'd so gay and pleasant, none would have believ'd, but that he made this Voyage with all the satisfaction in the world. The Countess appear'd very indifferent to all this, and seem'd to be neither well nor ill pleased at it, knowing well that all she could have said would have been distrusted, and therefore she spoke nothing to her Husband but equivocally upon that subject, being certain that he was not ignorant that in all things she had no intentions but those of pleasing the Duke; she was more than convinc'd that her Husband believ'd not one word she said to him, although she had forc'd herself to appear very much afflicted at his depart; and to express her joy she durst not, believing with reason that excess of Folly would have given too publick a scandal to the World; however she assur'd him, that the Duke intended to raise him to the highest Dignities the

State

State and Court were capable of, and that the Service which his Highness now desir'd from him was, To open a way to greater Honours, to which he had design'd him.

The Earl then parted from *Casal* in the Moneth of *April*, accompanied by his wifes elder brother as far as *Mantua*, where after he had receiv'd his Highnes orders he passed the Mountains, and went on his journey.

The same day the Duke dispatcht a Messenger to the Countess with this note,

My Heart and my All!

THe Earl is gon this Morning for Poland, *where he will do nothing, and I intend to go from hence within two dayes, to a place where I hope to do something. I shall rest contented when no body works in thy Garden, which is onely worthy the labour of Princes; excuse me if I speak so freely, do thou be mine, and for me, I shall be always thine, in spight of all those that would trouble either of us; expect me with the same*

desire

desire I have to see thee, and be mine, as I am thine,

Charles.

It will not be unnecessary in this place to conclude the story of the Earl, because we shall not hence-forward have more occasions of mentioning him; I will tell you then, that he continued in *Poland* two Moneths without doing any thing; having not receiv'd all the remembrances, and instructions necessary touching his Negotiations, although the Duke had given him his word to send them to him, but it was but a Pretext, to gain time; because the Posts that went from *Mantua* to *Poland*, went lazily, and arrived there but as late as possibly they could; whil'st in the mean time the Earl knew but too well for what reason the Duke had sent him so far off, and into a place where he was oblig'd to be his own Comforter for all his Misfortunes; but what afflicted him most was, That the Duke sent him not so much as the particular Instructions, whereby he might acquit himself aright

sight of his Commission in the Court of *Poland*, and also sent him no money, without which it is impossible for strangers to do any thing, and having it, they compass any thing: and therefore at last, he writ to the Duke and also his Wife these Letters following, which he sent by *Paris*:

Great Prince!

I Yet stay for those Letters of dispatch, which your Highness made me hope I should receive in this Kingdom, and yet I have not seen them, although two Moneths are pass'd since I arrived in this Kingdom, besides the days were spent in my journey hither; I have much shame and confusion at being here and having no imployment, not being able to serve your Highness like a true and faithful Vassal: Therefore in all humility I desire your Highness to send me with speed something to do, that I may testifie to you, with what fidelity Persons of my Quality usually serve their Sovereign, who wish all prosperity

to

to your Highneſs, which you deſerve. I am

Your moſt humble
Vaſſal,

The Earl of *Rovera.*

The other Letter which at the ſame time he ſent to his wife was in theſe words,

My dear Spouſe!

I Am ſo angry and ſo unſatisfied in being in a ſtrange Countrey, from my own Houſe, abſent from my wife, and without money, that if I had two ſouls, I would willingly give one to the Devil. His Highneſs ſent me hither with aſſurance that the Inſtructions neceſſary for me, and the Bills of Exchange, ſhould certainly follow me; but ſeeing the contrary, I know not who to complain to, and cannot but think that I was ſent hither on no deſign, but of being rid of me. I would never-

nevertheleſs flatter my ſelf, if it were poſſible, with the belief that the length of the way might perhaps be the cauſe of the ſlowneſs of my Letters, and hinder'd them from coming ſo ſoon as I expected; but for all that I cannot but afflict my ſelf, not being ignorant that thoſe people, who make uſe of my houſe in my abſence, divert themſelves, whil'ſt in the mean time I am ſuffering in the houſes of others; it troubles me not to be here, but I am vext that I have not that which was promiſed; I pray thee ſolicite his Highneſs, and ſpeak to him by word of mouth, if he is at Caſal, *or by Letter, if he be at* Mantua, *that I may receive ſatisfaction, and the Duke may be ſerved; till now I have not had opportunity of ſeeing any Lady, therefore I can ſay nothing to thee of their humours nor inclinations at preſent. This is all I can write to thee this day, deferring the reſt to another opportunity.* Adieu, I embrace thee.

But let the Earl write as many Letters as he pleas'd, he ſtaid fifteen Moneths in *Poland*, always waiting to receive his Orders, ſcarce once ſeeing

in

in all that time the Marquess of [illegible] *zague*, or at least once saluting him from the Duke: he bit his fingers every day in despight of his being so cheated, he writ and writ again, but to no purpose in the world, and receiv'd no answer to all his Epistles but fair words, and to no end; which the Duke caus'd his Secretary to write, which circumstance aggravated the Earls vexation, and put him out of himself. In fine, seeing he could do nothing in that Court for the service of his Highness, and that the Duke his Master had very little business to treat of in that place, he made new requests to him, which he often repeated, for his consent to his return to *Casal*, with protestations of his being more serviceable to his Highness at *Casal* than at *Poland*, where he did nothing either for the Duke or himself, as he thought, whil'st in the mean time that poor man render'd all the service required from him, since there was nothing desired from him but his absence.

The great Liberty with which these two Lovers diverted themselves together in the absence of the Earl, made them

them invent all the means possible to prolong it, and since he renewed his desires and prest so much his return, through weariness of his staying idle in the Court of *Poland*. The Duke being resolute for his absence a longer time, devised another plot worse than the former.

He ordain'd then the Earl by expres Letters, That he should go to the Capitol City of *Persia*, where he pretended he should stay there some Moneths in the quality of an Embassadour, because the intereſt of his State required some Correspondence with that King, and to engage the Earl to this, he promised him mountains and wonders, assuring him that if his designes succeeded by his Negotiation, he should want no Honours and Recompences, there being none after that such service which he might not pretend to for himself or his heirs.

The Duke sent him these Orders, with a Letter of Exhortation, and commanded also his Secretary, and his wives brothers to write to him. They obeyed the Duke, and sent to this poor banish'd man Letters full of Flatteries

ries to animate him to the Duke's ...
vice, with all the affection imagina...
and fail'd not to aggravate to the ...
the honours which they presu...
would accrew to him by this voyage.

When the Earl receiv'd this O...
one would have thought the ...
had taken him by the Coller, ...
eat his fingers with rage, and w...
ever had seen him would have thoug...
he would also have devour'd his Le...
ters, he begun to beat his *valet* ...
Chamber; to discharge some of h...
Choller upon him, and that whi...
was most vexatious in this business, h...
was the more inflam'd by the believi...
his resentments so just and his extre...
passion lawful, he saw plainly that t...
Dukes onely end was to make h...
die of want in that long and pain...
voyage, that afterwards he might ...
joy his wife with greater Liberty; ...
could not imagine any way what s...
fairs the Dukes of *Mantua* could ha...
with the Kings of *Persia*, so that pres...
with grief he took a resolution of se...
ding his footman into *Italy* with th...
same Letters which he had receiv...
from the Duke, reserving to him...

nely the Bills of Exchange, without giving himself the trouble to write to the Duke so much as one word of excuse, nevertheless he gave this servant of his two Letters of transport, one for his Wife, the other for his Brother in Law; The first was this,

Wicked Wife, the dishonour of my House, and the ruine of my Person,

I Refrained hitherto those lawful reproaches I could have made to thy dissolute life, for fear of publishing those crimes, which at least ought to be conceal'd; but since thy impudencies go so far, as to destroy, I do not say, the quiet of my mind, (for it never tasted any since my cruel destiny joyn'd me to thee,) but that of my soul, which thou persecutest even unto the farthest places of the world. I think my self oblig'd now to let thee know, that I was never blind as thou believedst me, but if I pretended to be so, twas an effect of my Prudence; I complain not of the Duke who persecutes

me for thy sake; I complain of thy disloyalty to thy Husband. Why didst thou marry, wicked woman as thou art, if thy intentions were to be always dishonest? Thou deceivedst thy self if thou didst believe that at the beginnings of our Marriage I did not perceive thy abominable amour; I knew, I saw with great regret, although I counterfeited ignorance, and pretended neither to see, nor hear, nor understand. It might have sufficed thee to have dishonour'd me at Casal, without being so cruel as to drive me out of Italy. Dost thou think I believe that all these pretended honours are conferr'd upon me for any other end, but in consideration of thy impudent dishonest life, to mock and abuse my simplicity? I understand it well enough, and would to God I did not at all. I forsake the name and quality of Husband, being forc'd to abandon my wife. I should be the basest of men to go about to serve a Prince, who flatters me with imaginary honours, whilst in effect he dishonours me: Yes, I hope to find a happier Fortune in Barbary than in my native Countrey; and I believe that the Inhabitants of that Countrey will not

have

have so much cruelty for me, as my Wife and my own Prince have shewed me in Italy; *Yes, yes, I renounce thee for my wife, since thou wilt be a whore, and I am resolv'd to fly thy presence eternally, that the world may not believe I consent to thy disorders. I confess I need not complain of thee, because it is my self I ought to blame for all my misfortunes, having been sufficiently warned by my friends and kindred of all that I have suffer'd by thee, and the dishonour thou wouldst bring me. But in fine, since my destiny has sent this for my ruine, I run very willingly to it, and do not thou think to escape punishment, which will come upon thee one day, when thou dream'st not of it, and although the chastisements of Adulterers is, like thine, deferr'd, yet it is sure to come; go, God will revenge me, and punish thee.*

He finish'd his Letter to the Countess in these words without Subscription, and sent it with another to his Brother-in-law writ in these terms,

There is nothing I should less have credited, than that Brothers born of an illustrious Blood would have served as Rascals in the prostitution of their own Sister; There is no body either in Mantua *or* Casal, *that is ignorant of this; It is now become the Fame of your Family, and the onely thing by which it is taken notice of; but I am very much displeased to have my reputation ingaged in it; For as for yours I deride it, since you have been so base to offer up to the Duke what no longer belong'd to you. That opinion of yours, That Princes can make no Cuckolds, resembles that Gold which covers Pills, to cheat sick people. I have alwayes lookt upon it as such, and I have indur'd as much as I can; but this minute that I have not gold enough left me to cover such great Pills as are prescrib'd to me, I have no more Patience, and must complain, since the Duke is pleased I shall this day begin to run over the World, like a poor Pilgrim and miserable banish'd man: to the end that he may enjoy your Sister in quiet. I resign my wife willingly to his Highness, and the shame to you; till now you have acted the part of Rascals, and serv'd the shame-*

ful

ful desires of my wife: Now take to your selves the employment of serving your Sister. This is all shall be said to you from him that gives you absolutely his share in the shame, that you may possess it all; he flyes from the company of a prostituted adulterous woman, and from the Pimps her Brothers; understand me as well as I understand both of you.

These were the last Letters which the Earl writ to *Casal*, with which the Duke lookt upon himself so sensibly offended, having got them both into his hands, that he swore in the Countesses presence to be revenged: Many were of opinion that he was quickly after that satisfied in his vengeance he intended on the Earl, because that minute he made his Oath, he dispatch'd many Letters, giving order to follow him, and to learn what was become of him, of whom since that time there was no news heard, which was the cause so many believ'd he was kill'd by the Dukes *Orders*, but I cannot believe this last common opinion, because that Prince had not so black a soul; and I rather think he was satisfied

enough with ordering him to be punish'd only by sending him far enough off his State; some were of opinion that he went into *Swede*, and under a disguize chang'd his Religion and became a *Lutheran*; and some believe he lives at this day in some little place he purchas'd with those thousand Pistols which the Duke sent him by Bills of Exchange for his Voyage into *Persia*: Others pretend he has been seen in *Portugall* not five years since, which is not certified credibly. But whatever is become of him, there has not any thing been heard of him since that time, and at *Casal* there is nothing spoken of him good or bad, and therefore we will talk no more of him, but here conclude the life of that unfortunate Husband.

Let us now return to that poor Princess, almost forsaken by her husband, in all things but outward shew; who seeing her self thus treated by the Duke her Husband, for the love of an infamous woman, and one so much below her in Birth, that there is no other comparison between them to be

he made but what is given between that of a Prince and a slave; so that it was very difficult for her to hinder her self from loudly complaining of the Countess, and the more by seeing every day her husbands affection grow colder for her, and increase to that wicked woman, who alone possess'd his heart. This afflicted Duchess was desperate at all the abominable trick's which from day to day were plaid the Earl beyond the Seas, onely to leave his wife at more Liberty with the Duke; and her affliction was very much increased when she was inform'd of his despair, which had caused him to renounce absolutely the serving that Court any more, and never to return to *Cyprus*, nor yet into any part of *Italy*; and since she heard by the whispering murmurs of the Courtiers, that the Duke angry at this procedure of the Earl had resolv'd to pursue him in revenge where-ever he went; in pity to this poor Lord, she went to ask his pardon of the Duke, and to that effect she set before his eyes the example of *David*, driven from his Kingdom, not so much by the persecution of *Absalom*

his son, as the decree of Heaven, to punish him for Adultery, which he had committed with *Bathsheba*, and that horrid execrable and barbarous murther of *Uriah* her husband, adding, That that Prophet had not so violently persecuted *Uriah*, as his Highness had pursued the Earl; nor had liv'd so long a time in Adultery with *Bathsheba* as he had liv'd with the Countess. The Duke, angry at these solicitations, rose up from the bed where he was sitting, whil'st the Duchess was talking to him, and walking to the Chamber-door, gave her no other answer than this,

Madam, that which men believe to be the Old Testament to be a sin, all Princes account this day a gallantry: and saying this, he went away.

The Duchess seeing all her words unprofitable, and work'd nothing upon the heart of the Duke, which was harder than any rock, to all Counsels that were given him to take him off his scandalous living; she resolv'd at last to try another way, and employ greater

strengths

strengths than her own, though she went far to fetch them. She knew very well the veneration of the Duke for the Senate of *Venice*, and she had often heard him profess his considerable Obligations to that illustrious Republick, with which he held great Correspondence for the interest and considerations of his own State. Therefore she took the occasion of petitioning that Senate in private to interpose their authority, to deliver her from her troubles, and to take the Duke from his scandalous way of life with the Countess.

That Senate, who does nothing without great Caution and Prudence, did not think this a necessary business for the whole body of the Counsel to take notice of, therefore they order'd *Monsieur Justiniani* to undertake it as a particular man, and to use all possible diligence in the affair: That Lord did not fail to receive that Commission with much respect and submission, but he was not without fear that he should be able to effect nothing to the satisfaction of the Senate, nor of the Archdutchess, he nevertheless omitted

ted no opportunity of surprizing the Duke, to talk to him about it, and having found an hour fit for his purpose, he begun to talk of this Commission with an admirable Eloquence back'd with Reasons so solid as never yet was seen come from the tongue of that Excellent Orateur; but all his Eloquence and strong Reasons were unprofitable, all the Discourses of the Illustrious Lord producing no effect, and made no impression in the heart of the Duke, who answer'd resolutely to that Oracle of the Senate, that there was but one remedy to cure so great a sickness, and that was, To send for an Executioner from *Venice*, to cut his heart out of his breast, because as long as it staid there, it must of necessity be the Countesses, and without depriving him of his heart, it was impossible to take from him the love he bore to the Countess. After that reply *Justiniani* found it to no purpose to press him further, and to undertake any more against so great a wilfulness, as he discover'd in the Duke.

That Prince then shutting his eyes to all kind of Considerations, lived

with

with the Countess like a Husband with his Wife, he carried her along with him when he went a Hunting, and also to the Palace royal of *Mantua*, where his wife the Archduchess also lay, he eat with the Countess, slept with her, and caressed her in the presence of all his Courtiers, almost before the face of that poor Princess his wife, who although she saw not what they ordinarily did, did not fail to hear of it, having the story of what passed between those two Lovers brought to her every day, all the Embassadours, the Gentlemen, Noblemen, as also all the Ladies of *Mantua*, admired the great Goodness of this Princess, to suffer with so much Patience so great an injury, or to say better, such an affliction of heart; for to say the truth, that dishonest love of the Dukes brought more glory to the Duchess than any disgrace, because she in that Patience expressed so great a vertue, in despising jealousie, and mocking at all those carnal pleasures of Matrimony, and letting the world see that all her trouble and mortification proceeded onely from no other cause than the

sin

ſin her Husband committed, and therefore we are not to call that Patience of hers a corporeal injury, but an affliction of Spirit.

There wanted no Ladies nor Gentlemen about the Court, who counſell'd the Ducheſs from time to time to revenge her ſelf of that Proſtitute, by one of thoſe Draughts ſo common in *Italy*, as the onely remedy to put an end not onely to her own affliction, but alſo the Duke her husbands adultery, and to take away the diſhonour of the Counteſſes Family, beſides the depriving the Court of its great trouble.

Amongſt the reſt there were two perſons of very large Conſciences, as one may ſay, wide as a Friars ſleeve, offered themſelves voluntarily to do this deed, the one was a Tailor, who proffered to end the Counteſſes life with the Shot of a Harquebuz, which he would in private Shoot at her, and no body ſhould know of it, and that he would take great care in chuſing his time, asking for recompence of that action but two hundred Piſtols, to keep him in any place he ſhould be forc'd to fly to, it not being poſſible after doing

that

that to think of returning back to his own house; or if they thought that summe too much for him, he askt no more than a good Recommendation to the Archduke, to be favourably treated with him.

The other person that offered to dispatch the Countess was a Lady and her kinswoman, honourable by reason of her age, who believing her self interested in the dis-reputation the Countess had brought upon her Family, and touched with shame and compassion for the Archduchess, offered her self also to poison this adulterous Countess, so privately that none should ever know it.

But that poor Princess who lookt upon all those Miseries, as being by the permission of Heaven, and receiving them as coming from the hands of God, did not onely blame those bloudy resolutions, and tragical designes of those murtherers, but she also forbid them for ever the presenting themselves before her with those Propositions, and it is said that one day, as she was discoursing with her Confessour (in the presence of the Governess of her house)

house) of the scandalous life the Duke liv'd with that Countess, and the Propositals had been offered her of revenging that adultery. That Confessour told her, *That great persons might commit a small evil, to deliver themselves from a greater.* Which the Duchess scarce heard him say, but guessing well his design, which was onely to carry her to revenge, she quickly replyed, *We had rather suffer the Countess to live with her sin, than let her die with ours.*

These words sufficiently testifie the great goodness and admirable vertue of that excellent Princess, with which she indured all her disgrace so well, that she took more delight in suffering, whil'st others were pleas'd, than she could have taken satisfaction amongst all kind of prosperities, whilst other people had been unhappy; also she never went about to buy her own repose by a Crime, and satisfie the desires of her body by an offence so prejudiciall to her soul, which makes me believe that God will take her into his particular care during her Regency, and so much the more, because

she prefers the interest of her Maker before all those of the world.

The Emperour and the Archduke sent by their Ambassadours a desire to the Duke of *Mantua*, that he would a little open his eyes, and consider the great scandal he liv'd in, even in the sight of all the Princes of *Italy*, protesting that they propounded this to him not out of resentment, but were prest to it out of the tender affection they bore to his person. They also assur'd him that they had not been solicited to this motion by the Princess their kinswoman, who complain'd not in the least to them of ill treatment, but on the contrary, protested to them that the Duke her Husband honour'd her very much, and except in the bed near him, to which the Countess alone was priviledged, the Duke us'd her with all the civility imaginable, as well in private as publick. Therefore the Emperour and the Archduke had no cause to complain of any thing, and less yet, in that it happen'd contrary in this scandalous life of the Dukes, to that which ordinarily passes in such a case by many that use their wives ill,

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for the ſake of their Miſtreſſes. For the Duke, contrary to other men, was grown ſo crafty, that he knew how to act cunningly by apparently ſatisfying his wife before the world, and taking his private pleaſures with the Counteſs, ſo that it was not eaſie for any to obſerve any change in the looks of that chaſte Princeſs, but rather much contentment and pleaſure. It is true, that outſide Friendſhip in appearance ought not to be imputed to the care and prudence of the Duke ſo much as to the goodneſs of his wife; who being endowed with a ſingular vertue, and an extraordinary prudence, could hide her grief, and expreſs no ſignes of trouble in her Face, although her heart was preſs'd down with affliction.

The Court of *Rome* received with much diſpleaſure the news of this ſcandalous adultery, and the trouble it received was aggravated by the quality of that great Perſon, who was guilty of that publick diſorder; and therefore it gave Orders to the Superiours of the Convents at *Caſal* and *Mantua* to injoyn the Preachers to exaggerate the nature of this Crime in their Pulpits

whil'ſt in the mean time the Duke ſuffer'd the World to Talk, and the Monks to Croſs themſelves, and went to Sermons when the Fancy took him, and hearkned to what he liked; upon which, it hapned, that a Father of the Order of St. *Francis*, by an indiſcrete Zeale, having too much reflected upon the Perſon of the Duke, and too openly ſpoke of the Counteſs, found himſelf ſo intangled, he was conſtrain'd to quit *Mantua*, till he was forc'd to Swear, That for time to come he would change his Note, and in Correcting the Vices of Princes, he would henceforward uſe more diſcretion.

The Dukes Confeſſor was alſo exhorted to remember his Highneſs ſometimes of the Obligation he had to leave off his ſcandalous life; (as if the greateſt evil of that Crime lay in the Scandal of it:) but that good Father lov'd better to be in the good graces of a Prince, Adulterous and Criminal, then Enemy of a Juſt and Innocent one: And furthermore, he was ſo indulgent, that when he Confeſt him, he eaſily gave him Abſolution; Laying all the fault upon the weakneſs of

our Nature: In truth, there are Confessors in these dayes, that are cause of the loss of many Princes; For, they being Ambitious to Domineer over the other Brothers of the Convent by their Princes Favour; they would be content (rather then lose that Dignity) not onely to send their Princes to Hell, but also go themselves to the Devil; neglecting the Duties of their Place, and their Pastoral Obligations, in excusing the Faults which these Illustrious Sinners commit.

The Countess also receiv'd from time to time her secret Mortifications; for the Bishop, sollicited perhaps from *Rome*, and the Arch-Dutchess, represented to her sometimes the condition of her life, threatning to refuse to give her the Holy Sacrament at *Easter*, but it was but Threats, to which she hearkned very little, and which gave her but little trouble, because she was confident they would never be perform'd, for fear of disobliging his Highness; and the more, because she excused her self, by laying the fault upon the Duke, saying to him that came to speak to her from the Bishop, That being

born

born a Subject, she could not command the Duke not to see her any more, because he would do her that Honour.

I cannot forbear in this place to relate an Accident, no less curious then Politick, which hapned during these passages.

My Lord Bishop of *Cassal* had undertaken a thing believed impossible by all the World, which was, to find out a remedy to divert the Duke from this Love of the Countess; which was so Publick, that there could not be a greater between two persons Married: but the whilst he labour'd by I know not what Political and Pastoral Zeal, he found the end of his dayes in seeking that of a Scandal; this Death of his regreted by all: he having been a Prelate of an exemplar life, and held worthy of so eminent a charge in the Church, in which he had alwayes shewed himself with great Zeale.

The Countess was not very sorry, seeing her self by that delivered from the apprehension, of losing the Dukes good Graces, of which she was in danger, by the strong exhortations of that

Biſhop. On the contrary, ſhe had no ſooner heard the news of the Death of the Biſhop, but ſpeaking to her Siſter the Counteſs *Louize*, ſhe ſaid to her, the poor Biſhop is dead, for ayming too much at Fiſty-Cuffs againſt Heaven; ſhe meant by that, to ſhew it was all one, to Fight againſt Heaven, and to endeavour to ruine her Favour with the Duke.

The Earl her Brother going alſo to talke to her upon the Subject of the Biſhops Death, ſaid to her, Siſter, you have loſt a great Enemy at leaſt, if he that is his Succeſſor prove not of his humour: To which ſhe anſwer'd; He ſhall be my Friend, or nothing.

The Biſhops Funerals were ſcarce ended, but, as well from the State of *Mantua*, as *Rome*, there ſtarted up many pretenders to his place; The Pope pretended a right in the chuſing of a Biſhop for *Caſal*, in the State of *Mantua*, becauſe all knew very well, that although the right of making a Biſhop of *Caſal* belonged to his Holyneſs, yet there was no great ſatisfaction to be found, for any that ſhould be made without the Dukes conſent: It being

ing certain, that to be a Bishop of any Town, against the Good-will of their Sovereign, it is no other, then to ruine any Mans Fortune, and keep him alwayes in trouble: There is no person that will accept it without having at the least the nomination of the Prince, or else a recommendation from him; And for this reason, there were as well at *Mantua* as at *Casal*, the pretenders to that Bishoprick, seeking to the Duke for a Nomination, or recommendation from his Highness.

Amongst many others, the Provost of *Miroglio* had a mind to this Bishoprick, and it was very easie for him to attain it, because no body dream't of him, for the way he took was better, and very different from those that the rest of the Prerenders had taken; he addresses himself to the Lady *Margaret*, with whom he had alwayes held a very good correspondence, and now sought her Recommendation by submissions and promises, with extraordinary Proffers; he promis'd her a Purse with a thousand Crowns in it to buy her a Diamond, protesting to her, that he would willingly

ly tesign the Cros into her hands; shewing her by that, that he would neiner do any thing which should not be as she would have it, and to her satisfaction: he forgot not to intreate her, that for all these considerations she would imploy all her interest with his Highness, to obtain his Recommendation to his Holyness.

This occasion lookt so faire, that the Countess would not neglect it: Therefore she promis'd him to imploy all her credit to bring his design about, so well, that he should be satisfyed with her indeavours; she went then to her Well-Beloved, and represented to him, how necessary it was to his Highness to have a Prelate at *Casal*, of another Humour then the former; who, under a colour of Zeal, should not interupt the repose which their Love injoy'd; since the death of the last Bishop; telling him further, that *Miroglio* was a Man of a perfect prudence, and worthy of that Bishoprick; sounding these words often in the Dukes eares, My Heart, I desire thee to do so, that this affair succeed in behalf of this Gallant Man; and certainly,

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he was alwayes lookt upon as ſuch; for, being a Prelate, he acquitted himſelf of his charge very well, and continues ſtill to do ſo; and although he ſalutes every Body with a Smiling Countenance, and all kind of affability; and that in his ordinary Diſcourſes he ſtill mingles ſome jeaſting word or other: he nevertheleſs with all that forgets not to Govern the Church and his Dioceſs extreamly well.

The Duke, who of himſelf was inclin'd to favour that Lord, not onely conſented to the requeſt of his Well-beloved in his behalfe, but engag'd himſelf further to act with all his power.

After this teſtimony of the Dukes good will, the Counteſs willing to try the conſtancy of this Lord *Miraglio*, and to diſcover what his Thoughts would be (if he arriv'd to that Biſhoprick) of her Amour with the Duke, ſent for him, and after having aſſur'd him of the Dukes Favour and Protection, to the end he deſir'd it, ſhe repreſented to him the great imprudence of the deceaſed Prelate, who, not content to injoy his Biſhoprick in peace, which

he held by the Dukes Favour, would trouble the repoſe of His Highneſs, in ſeeking to make him paſs for an Adulterer.

Monſieur *Miroglio*, who, penetrated to the quick into the Soul of this Crafty woman, anſwer'd her like a Gallant Man; for, after he had very much condemn'd the procedure of the dead Prelate, he Swore to her, that if ever he receiv'd the Mitre, he would never do any thing, but what ſhould pleaſe the Duke and her ſelf; furthermore, he added, That the Sins of Princes were but ſmall in the eyes of God; and in fine, he brought many other ſuch kind of reaſons, and perhaps better to reach his end, and compaſs his deſign, onely to appear blind to the Dukes Scandalous Life, and Publick Adultery.

The Counteſs was not unſatisfied with this Diſcourſe, and tolerating that Lord, ſhe made him ſo many advantagious Promiſes, that he parted from her very well contented, and pleaſed the more with the laſt words of the Counteſs, which were, That he

was as ſure of being Biſhop, as he was certain that the Duke was Lord of *Caſal*, and Soveraign of his State.

The time of parting for *Rome* being come, my Lord *Miroglio* was at the Palace, to obtain the Letters of Recommendation from His Highneſs, and receive the neceſſary Orders; but the Duke, to let him ſee that he conſider'd in that Choice, more the Intereſt of his Beloved, ſent for him, and told him, My Lord, you ſhall receive from the Counteſs all you wiſh: To whom he anſwer'd, with a low Congee, The Hands of ſuch a Lady could bring him nothing but good Fortune.

The Duke Writ divers Letters to the Court of *Rome*, to recommend the Intereſt of this Pretender to the Biſhoprick; but, amongſt the reſt, that which he writ to his Holyneſs, was ſo much to his advantage, he could not reaſonably deſire one greater; and becauſe the Counteſs gave him this Letter open, I will here give you the Contents to ſatisfie the Curioſity of the Reader.

Moſt

Most Holy FATHER.

After having most Humbly Kiſſed your Feet, with all the Affection of my Heart; I Salute your Holineſs *with all the Humility of my Soul, recommending in the mean time to the Politick and Eccleſiatick Zeal of Your* Holineſs, *the Intereſts of my Lord* Miroglio, *Provoſt of this Town, and a Man very much beloved in my houſe, he aſpires to this Vacant Biſhoprick, and if I am not deceiv'd, I believe his Merit renders him worthy enough of it; the time of the Warr, which makes this Town liable to great ſuffering, both within and without; obliges me to be more earneſt with Your* Holineſs, *to conſider the Perſon I recommend to you, and Create Biſhop of* Caſal *the Subject, whom I look upon as my intimate Friend, and a Man qualified to remove all Cauſes of Jealouſie, which uſually grow from the Introduction of Prelates who are ſtrangers, into ſuch eminent*

eminent Places; and therefore I desire Your Holiness, *with the Humility of a Son, to Grant me with this Grace Your Fatherly Benediction.*

The Countess had no sooner given this Letter to Monsieur *Mireglio*, and the others addressed to some of the Cardinals, then he went for *Rome*; where, being arriv'd, he deliver'd the Letters, and Sollicited his Affaires and Interests with a care suitable to his Pretensions; and such as you may guess by the usual diligence of those who aspire to the like Dignities.

The other Pretenders, who were very numerous, seeing how considerable his Recommendations were, and that his Party was the strongest, began *A la mode* of the Court of *Rome*, to Cross him, and with all their power endeavoured to exclude him, by many proofes of his insufficiency, murmuring against his Person; and which was worse, publishing many things against his Reputation.

There were two chiefe Reasons which they set up, to discountenance his

his Pretenſions; the Firſt was, That there was no regard to be taken to thoſe Letters of Recommendation procured by an Adulterous Woman, and bought of her with a great Sum of ready Mony: And the Second was, That it would be Scandalous to make the Coſin of a Heretick a Biſhop, who alſo carry'd the ſame name of her Family: But not to leave the Reader in doubt upon this Particular; I will explain it all in two words.

Twelve yeares before this, *Don Mario Miroglio*, Canon of the Cathedral Church of *Caſal*, neer Kinſman to Lord Provoſt *Miroglio*, was retir'd from that Town to *Geneva*, to the great diſpleaſure of the Chapter, and the Houſe of *Miroglio*, who ſpar'd for nothing to bring him back from whence he was fled; but he, deriding all their Remonſtrances, chang'd his Religion, to embrace that which is Profeſſed at *Geneva*; and was afterwards Marryed; he dyed ſome time after, leaving two Male Children behind him, to Eternize his Name in that Church ſo contrary to the Church of *Rome*.

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The whole ſacred Colledge was informed of that by his enemies, who had the ſame pretenſion with him, and above all they chiefly inform'd the Cardinal *Sforza*, as he that ſpoke the freelieſt, and ſpared not the Pope himſelf, when he was to give his advice, and they were not deceiv'd, for the Cardinal *Sforza*, going to the Pope, ſought at firſt to make a way into his thoughts, to alter his reſolution of making *Miroglio* Biſhop, and ſeeing for all his endeavours, that all things went on that Lords ſide, he was reſolute, and could not forbear, ſaying one day to the Pope in a full Conſiſtory,

Moſt holy Father!

IF your Holineſs reſolves to make the brother of a heretick a Biſhop at leaſt, let it not be the pimp of an adulterous woman.

The Pope notwithſtanding knowing that Cardinals humour, ſaid onely to him, that he was very well acquainted with the merits of the Lord *Miroglio*.

Miroglio

Miroglio then made Bishop, contrary to the expectation of all the world, and to the great discontent of his enemies, he gave many thanks to the Countess, besides giving her the thousand Crowns, which he had promis'd her before; and I will not speak of the many Presents he made to divers persons of the Dukes Court.

This Prelate wanted for no civility nor respect for the Countess, and honour'd her very often with his visites, staying many afternoons with her, whil'st the Prince was at *Mantua*; for when the Duke was at *Casal*, her house was forbid to all the world, except the Duke, to whom it only belong'd to Court that Fair one; one day however, as the Bishop was going out of the Countesses house, to whom he had been making a visit, he met the Duke, who said to him, My Lord Bishop, it were better that your Greatness should enter, and I should go out from this house, then for me to go in, and you to go out. He said this onely to give the Bishop to understand, that he who was a Prelate ought to give the Countess the absolution

lution of her ſins, which he was going to commit with her.

But to return to the Ducheſs, who was, as one may ſay, forſaken; you muſt know that ſeeing all things deſperate as to the converſation of the Prince her Husband, ſhe reſolv'd to give her ſoul ſome reſt, to let him do whatſoever pleas'd him, without ſeeming to take any notice, and to give theſe Lovers leave to take all their ſwing, with a full reſolve to mind nothing for the future, and to take no further care, importuning them no longer, all ſhe had done having been to little purpoſe.

The greateſt favour ſhe had deſir'd from her Husband had been, That he would content himſelf with the ſcandal he gave to his own State, without doing ſuch groſs things, to make himſelf the diſcourſe of other Nations, and the ſcorn of the Courts of other Princes; and indeed the Duke and the Counteſs liv'd in ſuch liberty, that it was verily believ'd that there was a private divorce between the Duke and his Ducheſs, ſo that by the conſent of them both, their marriage was

broke;

broke; and that he had after that privately married the Counteſs, which nevertheleſs was very far from truth; but it was impoſſible to ſhut the common peoples mouths, as long as this ſcandal was ſo publike. The Duke cared not to go one ſtep without the Counteſs, they eat and drunk togethe, and they never went to take the Ai without one another; if the Duke went from *Mantua* to *Caſal*, or to *Mantua* from *Caſal*, he always carried the Counteſs with him in the Coach, Alone; and for her part, ſhe could not in the journey ſuffer her ſelf one minute to forſake him who was more to her than ſhe was to her ſelf. I leave theſe conſiderations to the Impartial Reader, and not to the Lover, or whoſoever he is that reads this Book, and is troubled with amorous fancies; what followed theſe privacies.

The impudence of this bold woman grew to that exceſs, that not content to have ſpoild the good Judgment, Nature, and the Prudence of the Duke, in ſeeking to govern him her own way, and injoy him according to the motions of her brutiſh appetites,

and believing her ſelf not oblig'd to keep any meaſures, triumphing inſolently over her ſhame, it ſeem'd very little to her to be talk'd on onely in her own Countrey, although ſhe gloried much in that; but ſhe chiefly aſpired at the publiſhing her favour with the Duke in other Nations, deſiring they ſhould know how much ſhe injoyed with him above all that the greateſt Favorites could ever pretend to from any Prince; though ſhe a little fear'd that the ſtories of her ſin and adultery might come to their ears; She was ambitious that fame ſhould publiſh her in all places, and that not onely the people of *Montferrat*, and the *Mantuans*, but all *Italy* (not to ſpeak of *Aſia* and *Europe*) ſhould know that ſhe accompanied the Duke every where, that they ſhould ſee her play, and walk with him, and be eye-witneſſes, that ſhe ſlept with this Prince when ſhe pleas'd.

To ſatisfie this ambition ſhe deſir'd his Highneſs, that he would carry her to *Venice*, to ſee the Solemnity which is there upon *Aſcenſion*-day, but the Duke, who weighed all things with

more prudence, promis'd he would satisfie her, in sending with her what persons soever she pleas'd to have in her company, except himself; not thinking it fit for him to appear with her before the Senate, since upon her account he had receiv'd a private rebuke from them, as I told you before, but she who onely sought to appear there before all the strangers that were at that time at *Venice*, and to please her ambition more than her curiosity, could not receive his offer; and told him plainly that she would go with no other company than his Highness. In fine she knew so well how to charm him with her caresses, and gave him so many reasons, that she made him resolve to go himself, and carry her with him, as she desired.

The Duke would make this Voyage *incognito*, but his Mistress would carry her Sister the Countess *Lovize*, and three other Ladies with her, all very well dress't, and with them some Maids of Honour and waiting Gentlewomen, which was the reason that those who were not acquainted with the Amours of these two passionate

Lovers

Lovers took this fair Pilgrim for the Archduchess, who went *incognito*, and to say the truth, this Voyage could not be made with more magnificence nor joy for her, she might have been called a little triumphant Princess, who had alwayes the Prince at her side, who led her by the hand, as well in publike as private, and she was so over-joyed to see her self honour'd and served by all the Courtiers, who treated her as if she had been their true and lawful Soveraign Princess, that it is impossible to find words to express her satisfaction.

The noise of their arrival in *Venice* was quickly spread through all the town, and curiosity carried immediately all the town in crouds to the streets, to see these two Lovers who were so much talkt of, not onely through all Italy, but every where else, the streets were fill'd with a number almost infinite of persons of both sexes, who prayed one another to behold with what great a grace the Duke led the Princess by the hand in the sight of all the people.

It is confidently spoken that this

Prince ſpent in this Voyage more than three thouſand Piſtols in many Preſents which he made, he gave amongſt the Ladies of his troop five hundred Crowns, and the reſt to the Counteſs, who coveted all that ſhe ſaw in every ſhop amongſt the Merchants; and when ſhe took notice of any rarity, which was commended in that Countrey, ſhe ſpared no careſſes nor flatteries to the Duke to perſwade him to buy that knack upon which ſhe had ſet her heart. It is certainly believ'd, that the Duke till that hour had not found any ſign of covetouſneſs in the Counteſs, and till then ſhe had never expreſs'd a deſire of any thing beſides the love of her Gallant; but the Air of *Venice* alter'd her nature, and what ever ſhe had a mind to, the Duke never contradicted her deſires, he was ſo far from denying her any thing, that one day as they paſt by a Jewellers ſhop, they ſhew'd this fair Lady a great number of precious ſtones, amongſt which there was a little Roſe of Diamonds, round beſet with little Golden Eaglets, which held out their Bills to kiſs one another, which ſeem'd almoſt the arms of the

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house of *Gonzague*, the Countess then looking stedfastly upon that Jewel, and with great desires, without daring to ask it, for fear of being too importunate, the price being more than four thousand Crowns, with some caresses and flatteries, without once opening her mouth to beg it, she oblig'd her loving captive to give it her with these words, *I shall not be much troubled to part with all my money to her, to whom I have given all my heart.*

In returning home they went to *Padua*, where by chance that day the Comedy of *Joseph* was acted in musick, which the Duke would see; he went thither with the Countess, followed by all his people, and placed himself with the other Ladies of his company in a Box over against the Stage, where he always held his Mistress in his arms, imbracing her in the face of the whole Assembly, who took not their eyes off them one moment. In the mean time, when the Scene where the wife of *Potiphar* is represented, forcing of *Joseph* to sleep with her, and particularly at that place where that example of Chastity re-

fuſes her, and flying away leaves her his Cloak. The Counteſs turning to the Duke ſaid, *I cannot praiſe this young man, for having thus left an affamiſh'd Lady*; to which the Duke anſwer'd, *All the world is not ſo charitable, nor ſo complaiſant, as I am for thee.*

The ſcandal which all *Lombardy* ſuffer'd by this Voyage, diſpleaſed the Ducheſs very much, and ſhe could not refrain the expreſſing her reſentments to the Duke; but ſince her words accompanied with her ordinary Mildneſs had nothing of indignation in them, they made no impreſſions upon the heart of her husband, who had intirely ſacrific'd her to the Counteſs, with whom he liv'd in ſuch a manner that the world were almoſt perſwaded that there had paſs'd ſome Clandeſtine Marriage between them, which was the Cauſe of no ſmall diſpleaſure amongſt the people who were very much afflicted to ſee their Prince ſo effeminated.

In the mean time the Court of *Rome* murmur'd, and bore with much impatience, not onely the life which the Duke led with the Counteſs, but

alſo were more troubled at the Popes ſilence, who fought not to remedy theſe ſcandals: this noiſe and theſe impatiencies increas'd by the return of Cardinal *Leomelini*, who came from this Legation at *Bologne*, who having had ſome conteſts with the Duke, fought a revenge: and ſince we are come to ſpeak of that particular, I think it will not be from the purpoſe to touch, in paſſing by, upon it as briefly as I can poſſible.

The Nobility of *Bologne* had invited the Duke to ſee ſome Comical repreſentations that were to be in the Town, with a magnificence and preparation extraordinary; and becauſe the Duke could not longer live without his Counteſs, nor ſcarce go four ſteps without having her in his Company, he carried her again with him, as if ſhe had been his wife, to ſee thoſe ſhews aforeſaid.

The Gentlemen, that belong'd to the Legate Cardinal *Leomelini*, could not refrain from murmuring with ſome kind of ſcorn and mocks to the Dukes actions, who with an univerſal ſcandal carried along with him an Adultereſs,

even into the Towns of the reſort of the Eccleſiaſtical State; on the other ſide thoſe who belong'd to the Duke ſeeing themſelves oblig'd to defend the reputation of their Sovereign, after many injurious words on both ſides, came to blows, to the great diſpleaſure of the Nobility in that Town, who ſaw themſelves oblig'd in that conjuncture to take the Dukes part, againſt thoſe of the Cardinal, ſo that the Duke ſeeing himſelf affronted, ſent to complain to his Eminence, who in ſtead of ſatisfaction in puniſhing the beginners, protected his men, and threatned the Duke himſelf.

The Duke went out then from *Bologne*, all in rage, with deſign to cauſe the Cardinal to be murder'd in his Coach, and to that end he ſent upon *Good Friday* twenty four men well armed, who, being enter'd the Town, diſcharg'd at the ſame time many Piſtols into the Legates Windows, not that they had deſigns to kill, but affront him; all the inhabitants were in a maze at the boldneſs of thoſe Cavaliers, who hazarded their lives with ſo much confidence, they ſaved themſelves

ſelves nevertheleſs without receiving any hurt, although they were purſued by the Guards.

The Gentlemen of *Bologne*, and particularly thoſe who had invited his Highneſs to *Bologne*, perceiving that the Duke was very angry, and to prevent any further miſchief that might happen through this diſorder, ſent word to Pope *Alexander*, to the end that he might hinder it, who, making uſe of his ordinary prudence by a Maxime of Policy, took that employment from the Cardinal, pretending he would give him one more ſutable to his Eſtate, and put in his place the Cardinal *Farneſe*, who was of the laſt creation, and friend to the Duke.

Leomelini knew preſently from whence this change came, and therefore without looſing time returned to *Rome* to be revenged of this injury, which, to ſpeak truth, was an affront; to arrive at this deſign, he began preſently to inform all the Conclave of the Cardinals, and his Holineſs alſo, of that ſhameful life which the Duke lived with the Counteſs, and the great

great ſcandal which it gave to all *Lombardy*. That ſong which the Courtiers ſung quickly ſpread over the whole Town of *Rome*, ſo that in the ſtreets no other thing was talked on.

That Cardinal was very importunate to have this Duke proceeded againſt by way of Excommunication, giving them to underſtand with his uſual authority, that if they ſuffered ſuch an adultery to be unpuniſhed, the Hereticks without doubt would prevail, and the holy Chair would ſuffer a great blow to its reputation, and in fine would condemn the Church for tolerating and permitting adultery.

But the Duke inform'd of all theſe things, cauſed it to be told the Cardinal *Leomelini, That he would teach him to ſpeak, if he would not learn to hold his tongue.* For all this his Eminence chang'd not his note, who being not accuſtomed to tongue injuries, repeated always the ſame ſong, and very far from hearkning to peace, or to ſeek it, the more that he ſaw himſelf threatned, he repeated his complaints the more to the Pope and his Cardinals.

But

But the Pope *Alexander* understanding the affairs of the World, not being ignorant how he ought to treat with a Sovereign Prince, went not so hastily to work, and press'd not so much to undertake a Prince who had merited so well from the holy Chair, nor however, at least, for no other subject but a woman, he well knowing that the Duke was not the onely Adulterer, and that that business would reflect upon many Princes who lived in the same disorder, and therefore he gave not much ear to the Cardinal *Leomelini*, no more than to the other Cardinals, who undertook this business to the Pope, not for any hate they had to the Duke, but because they were set on by this Cardinal.

The Pope at last seeing himself pressed, and not to be wanting in his duty of Pastour, ordered the Cardinal grand Penetencier, to write to *Miroglio*, Bishop of *Casal*, that he should proceed against the Countess by the ordinary wayes in the like cases, that is to say, to refuse her the Communion at *Easter*, and in case that she sought not to mend and change her life, to put

an

an end to that great ſcandal, after he had given her all thoſe fatherly corrections to which his charge oblig'd him, he ſhould proceed to Excommunication, or the other Eccleſiaſtical Cenſures, which the Councils command to be uſed in ſuch kind of Caſes.

The Penetencier fail'd not to obey the order that was given him to write, but not in the manner which the Cardinal *Leomelini* deſired, becauſe he writ to that Prelate in gentle terms, commanding to behave himſelf in this affair with great Prudence, with a ſuitable zeal which did not ſute with the deſigns and deſires of that Eminence. The Biſhop had no ſooner received that Letter, but he communicated it to the Duke and the Counteſs, who derided it, and the more, becauſe the Biſhop himſelf laught at it too, who would not do any thing againſt the pleaſure of two perſons, who had given him his Biſhoprick.

This Prelate taking his leave at the end of that diſcourſe, the Duke taking him by the hand ſaid in his ear, *My Lord, write to the Cardinal Penitentier,*

tentier, That when the Pope Chaſes all the Bawdy Houſes out of Rome, *we will drive the Countess from hence.* It is true, he ſaid that more to rally with the Biſhop, then for any other reaſon, becauſe he knew very well that thoſe words would not go ſo far as *Rome*; though, as I believe, he had not much car'd, or not at all if they had; nay, if they had been told to his Holineſs.

The Biſhop return'd a Letter to *Rome* full of good and ſolid choice Reaſons, which ſhew'd the neceſſity there was for the good of the Church, that they ſhould ſhut their eyes to thoſe diſorders, not to enrage the Duke, for if they did ſo, he fear'd he might do worſe, and might proceed to trouble and puniſh the repoſe of the Clergy; in effect, he was not deceiv'd, for if ever it had happen'd that the Counteſs had receiv'd that diſcontent, of being ſtruck by any cenſure of the Church, the Duke, who would alſo have lookt upon himſelf as injur'd, had without doubt moleſted the Clergy and the Biſhop; for Princes never want Reaſon to make Criminals: and ſince Eccleſiaſtical Men will not acknowledg themſelves

themſelves Subjects to them, and particularly the Biſhops, who look upon themſelves as exempt from owning that Title; but, it is a great abuſe, and they deceive themſelves groſly.

The Anſwer of this Prelate hapned, I know not by which way, to be communicated to the Cardinal *Leomelini*, who preſently began to murmur againſt that Biſhop, as he did againſt the Duke, not ſparing him, even in the Conſiſtory of the Cardinals; and ſaying all the ill things he could of him, though falſly: For to ſpeak truth, this Prelate had alwayes behaved himſelf like an honeſt man, and has no vices that are worthy of reproches.

What diſſimulation ſoever the Holy Father ſhew'd, yet he was nevertheleſs ſenſibly touched with the Advertiſements he every day received of the Scandalous Life of the Duke and the Counteſs; and therefore mov'd with Zeale and Compaſſion, he made many Prayers be offered in every Church, to the end, that it would pleaſe God to touch the Heart of that Prince, and draw him from his obſtinate hardneſs of heart, in going on in ſo infamous a

Sin

Sin as that was, in which he had so long liv'd.

But at last, making reflection upon the duty he was oblig'd to, as Soveraign Pastor of the Church, he saw well, that to hold his Peace, would not be to acquit himself well: on the other side also, as he would not proceed in that business with rigor against that Prince; he resolved, being combated with his Duty and his Fear, to employ the most gentle remedies, and to imploy in them Persons also vertuous, indowed with Piety.

He sent, to that purpose, the Father *Cavori Alapuchin* to *Mantua* and *Casal*; he was a Person celebrated as well for the fairness of his carriage, as the excellence of his vertue; with Fatherly instructions setting before him the Service he should do both to God and the Church, and that he should Merit very much from the Holy Chair, if he could overcome the Spirit of this Duke, and obtain any Victory over that of the Countess, to make them leave off this Scandalous Life, so much to the Scandal of the whole Church.

This good Father *Capuchin*, guessing

sing the hardness of the hearts of A-
dulterers, felt in himself some repug-
nance for this Imployment, despair-
of ever conquering the Obstination
the Duke, or to move his heart, whi-
Sin had made harder then a Diamond
nevertheless, without reply to the
Pope; he received that Commissio
which his Holiness impos'd upon him,
with a ready and as humble obedience
which belongs to that Order of *Ca-
chins*, and is so sutable to their Habit
in a word, with a *Capuchins* Obedience
and with Promises, To do all in
Power to serve his Holiness and the
Church faithfully, he would spare no
Cares to procure the Salvation of the
Soules of the Duke and the Coun-
tess.

The Pope, in giving this good Fa-
ther his Blessing, commanded him, that
if peradventure he perceived that his
Charitable Remonstrances, and Father-
ly Corrections had no effect, and that
by mild wayes he should work nothing
upon the Heart of that Prince, that he
should proceed to some kind of Ri-
gor and Threatning; in the behalfe of
the Holy Chair; and yet withal that

he

he ſhould not fail to let the goodneſs of the Pope be known, and to excuſe him to the Duke, if they came ſo far as to Eccleſiaſtical Cenſures againſt his Perſon.

This Father went from *Rome* with this Order, drawing towards *Mantua*; but, in paſſing by *Bologne*, he communicated all theſe Orders he had receiv'd from His Holineſs to the Superior of a Convent of his Order in that Town, and asking his Counſel, How he ſhould Act, in an Affair of ſo great Importance? they conſult together, and both concluded, That it would be better to ſtay for the opportunity of the Dukes being at *Caſal*, to the end, that he might have the convenience of aſſaulting both their Hearts together; our *Capuchin* followed this advice, and *in* ſtead of continuing on his way for *Mantua*, drew towards *Caſal*, where he arrived two dayes ſooner then the Duke, who came thither with the greateſt part of the Court.

This *Capuchin* being then arrived at *Caſal*, diſcover'd to almoſt the whole Convent the occaſion of his Voyage, and pray'd them to joyn their Prayers

to his, to obtain from God a favourable ſucceſs in ſo difficult and dangerous an enterpriſe; but that policy of his ſucceeded very ill, contrary to his wiſhes, becauſe the plot being diſcover'd, the Noiſe of the Subject of his Voyage to *Caſal* was ſpread through the whole Town, ſo that he was diſcover'd before the Duke gave him the Hearing; but at laſt his Highneſs coming alſo to be inform'd, forbid every body to ſuffer this *Capuchin* to come near his Perſon, and not permit him to enter in any place where he was; which this poor Father perceiving, deſpairing of acquitting himſelf of his Commiſſion, and the more becauſe he was told, That the Duke was going ſuddenly to *Mantua*; he thought it neceſſary to take his Journey to *Rome*, following the Advice given him by the Lord *Miroglio* himſelf.

All the World had great reſpect for this proceeding of the Court of *Rome*, and ſo much the more, becauſe it had imploy'd thoſe of the Order of *Capuchins*, which is in great veneration in *Italy*; nevertheleſs that hindred not the

the Duke, and the Counteſs, to mock at all they did to ſtifle their Love, which became greater and greater; making the Proverb good, That privation begets Apetite; becauſe the more they ſaw themſelves moleſted, upon the Subject of their Amours, the more it inflam'd in them the deſire to do all things, that could contribute, in any ſort, to their Delights, and what pleas'd them.

The Duke was inform'd of all they ſaid at *Rome*, touching his Love to the Counteſs; and, in truth, they ſpoke of it with too much ſcorn; making Libels and Satyrs, extreamly piquant, againſt his Perſon; alſo, in return, they ſpared neither the Cardinals nor the Pope himſelf in the Court of *Mantua*, though the Duke did what he could to ſilence them, like a good Prince as he was (for his greateſt Vice was that Adultery) ſo great was his reſpect to the Holy Chair, he would not ſuffer them in his preſence to ſpeak any thing againſt the Heads of the Church; however his Courtiers being not of his humour, it was not in his power to make them hold their peace; there-

fore their insolence grew to that height, that there was seen at *Rome* some Libels, in which they Challeng'd the Inhabitants of that Noble City to come to *Mantua*, to let them see they would revenge the Affront they pretended to have received from them.

But it is now time for us to visit his Highness in his Tent, to see in what condition his Love is, now he is turn'd a Soldier.

The good Fortune of the *French* had been so prosperous till then, that they had carryed their Victorious Armes beyond *Flanders*, *Catalonia*, and *Rousillon*; and though they had not as yet begun to shew themselves of that side of *Caracene*, towards *Milan*, yet they took the way to be Masters of *Italy*, to which that Nation ardently aspires: The Enemies beat the Field, and rang'd sometimes on one side, and then of another, upon the Banks of the River *Tesino*, with so much Liberty, they seem'd to be absolute Masters; they were commanded by the Duke of *Modene*, one of the great Captains of our time; and he was accompanyed with as many Captains as he

he had Soldiers; that is to say, they were the Valientest Warriours in the World; for, in truth, at that time the *French* were so esteem'd.

But the *Spaniards* perceiving themselves not in a condition to oppose those Invincible Conquerors; and, that the Affaires went but too ill in *Lombardy*, addressed themselves to the Emperour, desiring him to assist them in the Defence of a place which was so considerable in the Empire; this Monarch granted their requests the more willingly, in regard of his own interest there, as well as that of the House of *Austria*; and indeed he made it appear, that the Empire was interessed in it, doing upon that account all in his power, and joyning with those of that House, with whom he enter'd into a very strict League, to prevent the Duchy of *Mantua* from falling into other hands.

The Duke *Charles* was to that end nominated Vicar of the Empire, and they gave him to that purpose the Command of an Army, that he joyning with the *Spaniards* might stop the Progress of the *French* Arms in *Lombardy*:

hardy: In the mean time the *French* thought fit (in their Councel of War) to lay Siege to *Alexandria*, one of the ſtrongeſt Towns in the Duchy; and although this place was very well Mann'd and defended, this reſolution nevertheleſs gave much apprehenſion to the *Spaniards*, ſince it was a place of ſuch conſequence to any that could poſſeſs themſelves of it; and for that reaſon the Duke *Charles* thought himſelf oblig'd in Duty to go himſelf in Perſon to aſſiſt a place ſo important to the repoſe of all *Italy*; after they had then order'd all things neceſſary for the ſuccour of *Alexandria*, he gave Order for the March of his Army; he parted, to that end, from *Millan*, where he had been *Incognito*, to ſpeak with the Miniſters of *Spain*, not on purpoſe, but to take an occaſion of paſſing from *Mantua* to *Montferrat*, and by that means to go to *Caſal*, to viſit his Counteſs, who impatiently expected him.

As ſoon as he ſaw her, he expreſs'd his kindneſs in an extraordinary manner to her, having been abſent from her 15 dayes, ſo that it was impoſſible

posible for any to snatch this Prince out of the Arms of that beauty in 2 dayes; notwithstanding all the Remonstrances of those which were sent to him from the Army, who exhorted him to come in all haste to the relief of *Alexandria*, which was going infallibly to be lost, if there were not some kind of Succour sent immediately to it.

The Countess had taken a resolution of putting her self in the Habit of a Man, and to follow the Duke whersoever he went; and although the Duke seem'd to consent to it at first, yet he thought it not very convenient in the end, and therefore she saw her self necessitated to remain at *Casal*, having obtain'd a promise from her Lover, That every day she should receive from him an Account of his health, and the progress of his Highness with that of his Army.

This Prince parted from *Casal* then the fourth of *August*, accompanied with his Countess, who went with him in his Coach above three Miles; and also, by an excess of Gallantry, her Brother drove the Coach till they came to a certain Village, where

they ſtopt to take leave of his Highneſs; who, drawing apart his Well-beloved, was ſometime in converſation with her, but not ſatisfied with that, and what he had injoy'd of her company all the way, they enter'd into a Peaſants houſe hard by that place, were they were together a full hour, to the great heart-breaking of all the World, who waited for them in the Street, although in the mean while the Counteſſes Brother invented all he could imagine to divert the Company.

After theſe two Lovers had given their adiews to each other, having finiſhed all their Ceremonies in the Chamber of that good poor Countrymans houſe, they went out, and being yet not able to ſeparate for good and all, they ſtaid at the door, talking together, toying and fooling with one another, and alſo to make Love half an hour longer, whil'ſt in the mean time there arrived a Poſt from the Marquiſs of *Facnſaldagnia*, Governour of *Milan*, who earneſtly deſir'd his Highneſs, That he would haſten his depart to the Army, where they impatiently

impatiently waited for him, having absolute need of his presence: who ever had seen the Duke and his Countess so strictly imbrac'd, would have thought they were never to meet again, and if a Gentleman a great friend of the Dukes had not confidently told his Highness that the night came on apace, and that it was not safe for him to enter in the dark into a Countrey that was the rendezvous of the enemy, I believe the Duke and his Countess would have staid a good while longer in that place, which yet was not a very convenient one, to make love in. In fine, after that these two Lovers had given some tears to their future absence, they took leave of one another; She returning to *Casal*, and the Duke marching towards *Alexandria*, where the Army staid for him, and where the *Spaniards* Council of War was held, to consult upon the way to secure that place so considerable to their State, and which they already believed out of their power.

The Marquess of *Faensaldagnia* had commanded an apartement for the Duke to be made ready in a Palace,

a mile

a mile from *Alexandria*, about which was encamped the Imperial and *Spanish* Army, as being a very advantagious Poſt to trouble the enemy, who had no defence from their ſhot, and were blockt up between the Town and the River.

The Duke was ſcarce arrived, but finding that Air unwholſome for him, and being very much heated by the journey, he was preſently ſeiz'd by a Feaver, which obliged him to go to bed, but that which added to his trouble, was to ſee himſelf in a Countrey ſo prejudicial to his health, and where he could not have thoſe things fit for his cure, with that diligence which his diſeaſe required, *Tortona* being diſtant from him two miles, and that was the neereſt Town wherein there were Apothecaries.

Two things begun to trouble his mind and raiſe his ſpleen and melancholly, The one was that ſuch a misfortune happened to him in the Firſt time of his life that he had appear'd in the field, fearing it would oblige him to return to *Caſal*, without the glory of having done any thing to ſhew his

his courage; but that which was his greateſt heart-breaking was, That he fancied the *Spaniards* would believe him a Coward, under which notion he ſhould paſs for ſuch through all thoſe Countries, not being able to imagine they would be ſo civil to lay all the fault upon his Feaver, (which really was the cauſe) but would rather believe it a fair pretence of the Dukes to hide his cowardly heart. The ſecond thing which ſo tormented him, was, To ſee himſelf alone, and deprived of the ſervice of his Counteſs, as he had been formerly: he reſolved to keep his bed notwithſtanding, and ſtay in that Palace which they had provided for him, becauſe he would not looſe the ſight of the *Spaniards*, who came to viſit him (whilſt his Feaver thus perplext him,) and adviſed with him of the means the moſt fit to enterprize ſomething upon the enemy.

This ſickneſs of the Dukes was not carried ſo cloſe but that it came to the ears of the Counteſs, who was not a little troubled at it, and, as I believe, it was his Highneſs that advertiſed her of it, being confident that ſhe would not

fail

fail to come to him as soon as she receiv'd that news. It was that which the Duke desired with greatest passion; for being without his Mistress he was without his heart, as he himself assur'd her brother, who writ word of it to the Countess, by the expres command of the Duke.

As soon as the news of the Dukes sickness arrived at *Casal*, the Countess was so afflicted, that one would have thought she had no life left, and although they did what they could to perswade her his disease was not great nor dangerous; she nevertheless grieved very much; but she grew desperate when she was inform'd that the French Army were so much up and down the Countrey, that it was dangerous travelling between *Casal* and *Alexandria*, whither she would go notwithstanding accompanied with onely very few on Foot, through by-ways, with intention to serve as Physitian to this Amorous sick man, she sent out a Scout before her journey, to be perfectly inform'd of the march of the enemies, that so she might the better chuse what way to take.

She

She was uncertain in her resolutions in what habit to travel in, whether that of her own sex or of a man; fearful of being known if she should make that journey in her ordinary dress; but having ask'd Counsel of her Governour in that affair, he advised her to go with very few in her company, and to disguise her self like a man.

The resolution for parting then being taken, after the Scout she sent was return'd, which was the same day that the Duke himself had inform'd her of his being ill; she discover'd her design to the Countess *Lovize* her sister a little before she went, this Countess *Lovize* having formerly travell'd as a man with a *Frenchman*, whom I spoke of before, who was her Gallant, offer'd her self now to accompany her sister in the same posture.

The Countess *Magaret* received this offer of her sisters very willingly, and was the more inclined to it, by perceiving they two were so much of a humour as to matter of journeys as well as other things; so away they went very late in the evening accompanied onely with their younger brother,

ther, and one man, to avoid the encounter of the French, who coasted up and down the Countrey every moment. They went out of the great rode, crossing the Fields by little by-paths, that were very much about, and made their journey much longer than the way they quitted had done, but as ill luck would have it, they met with what they avoided, and fell into the snare they took such pains to avoid.

They rested at night in a Village a little way off St *Saviour*, without making themselves known to their host, hoping to continue their way towards *Alexandria* very early in the Morning; but they were deceived, as the Proverb sayes, *He that reckons without his Host must reckon twice.* For it was scarce two hours within night, when there arrived twelve *Spanish* Cavaliers, (perhaps the Host himself had been their Spie) who, pretending to be French-men, assaulted the Inne where our amorous Pilgrims were lodg'd. These enemies came with so great a noise one would have thought they had been the whole French army; the poor Earl, who had

accom-

accompanied his ſiſters, not having been accuſtomed to the noiſes of War, and ſuch kind of aſſaults as that, being afraid of his life, got up all trembling to the higheſt Garret of the houſe to hide himſelf, thinking the very Flyes were Horſes, and believing every Horſe was a compleat Army of the enemies.

In the mean time theſe two Counteſſes, diſguiz'd like men, were not yet got into bed, and ſtaid ſtill in the Chamber, almoſt in deſpair, yet the Counteſs *Lovize* rais'd her ſelf a little out of her Fear, when ſhe heard them ſpeak French, having been us'd to men of that Nation, though in quality of Friends and not enemies, were thoſe ſhe had formerly convers'd with, which theſe Souldiers pretended not to be.

Theſe brave Cavaliers were not much troubled to find out that theſe alleged perſons were Females and not Males, as their habits ſpoke them; and it was the better for the Ladies that it was ſo, becauſe that after they had given them the divertizement of a two hours ſiege, they went away betimes in the Morning to ſeek ſome other for-

tune,

tune, and left our Fair guests at Liberty, without suffering any damage from them at all; unless it were some few kisses which they were oblig'd to give them, and some other little rudenesses they offer'd them, which need not be explain'd to the Reader.

The Countess *Margaret* was not a little mortified to be surprized by such an assault as this, but on the contrary, the Countess *Lovize* was over-joyed in having gain'd the affection of these besiegers, and had diverted her self with those Counterfeit enemies, as may very well be imagin'd.

They went on their journey early in the Morning, towards *Alexandria*, although the Earl their brother advis'd them to return to *Casal*.

Certainly these illustrious travellers wanted Conduct, to trust themselves in a journey without any train in the time of war, and in a Countrey that swarm'd with Souldiers, not being ignorant that the enemies rang'd everywhere, even to the very Gates of *Casal*; two causes nevertheless excus'd them, Love and Curiosity; for in effect, there was nothing but the Love of the

Countess

Countess *Margaret* to her Gallant, and the dishonest curiosity of the Countess *Louize* her Sister, which made them hazard that little honour they had left; for certainly, if they would have demanded a Convoy for their safety, they should not have been deny'd it; but, who is ignorant that Love is blind, and alwayes in hast.

The Countess *Margaret* intended to relate this rencounter to the Duke, but her Brother and Sister thought it not very convenient, least it might give some jealous trouble to that sick Lover, and therefore this past under Silence.

At last, being come to their Journeys end, into the Dukes presence, who was in Bed, they did not trouble themselves with great Preambles and Ceremonies, nor to keep him in long discourses; but their first conversation was Embraces with all imaginable tenderness, which he gave to this poor sick man, who return'd the same to his Mistress (whose heart was pierc'd with grieve) although the Room was full'd with many Captains, and some of the principal of the Army.

The Countess scarce had begun her Caresses to the Duke, but he seem'd much amended, and so much, that he lookt like one that never had been Sick, and also all that day he had no Feaver; which made it believed, that the Countess had brought some Antidote with her to drive away the Sickness of her Lover.

The General of the *Neapolitan* Cavalry, who was by the Duke when his Beauty enter'd the Chamber, taking leave presently of his Highness, as going to the Dore, said to one of his Friends who was in the Company, *We may very well take leave now, and go our wayes, for the Duke will be no more for us.*

Almost all the Commanders of the Army did nothing but grumble in the Camp at the Countesses coming thither; believing, that as long as the Duke had this Woman with him, he would forget his duty.

But, for all that, they found themselves happily deceiv'd, because the Duke recover'd as he was, though perhaps not altogether cur'd, by the sight of the Countess, gave himself up

up in good earneſt to the exerciſe of his Charge.

It was a ſtrange amazing ſight, to ſee this Prince ride round about his Camp on Horſeback with his Miſtreſs, giving the neceſſary Orders to his Army, where he did wonders, that being his firſt time of Appearance in the Field, ſo that there was very few perſons that did refuſe him the Honour he had Merited, of delivering *Alexandria*; he knew ſo well how to make his Advantages of time and place, that the beſieged became in a little time beſiegers themſelves; and fill'd with extreame fearęs, thoſe, who had been the moſt likely as Enemies and Beſiegers, to have given a mortal apprehenſion to his whole Army. The Duke forbore not for all this, to give the beſt part of his time to his Amours with the Counteſs, his Ague being turn'd to a Tertian, which gave him ſome reſpit, but this alteration made it the more dangerous.

And ſince theſe Ladies had not brought with them Cloaths ſutable to their Sex, they preſently ſent away an Expreſs to furniſh them; it being ve-

ry unpleasant to the Duke to see her who possest his heart, under any habit but her own; not at all caring to see her dress't like a Man as well in the Chamber, as in the Camp, whither he often carry'd her.

As for what belong'd to the vertue of the Countess *Lonize*, she lost not one hour of the day by idleness, her great pleasure being to receive the Visits of the Chief Commanders in the Army, amongst whom she pass'd her time with such satisfaction, that she often lost her self, so that it was impossible for her Sister to find her; it being certain that she had above half a dozen Favourites, who fail'd not to content her to their power; and for that reason a certain *Florentine* Gentleman, who, as well as the greatest Commanders, had received from the Countess *Lonize* some Favours, told a Comrade of his, That he found the Whores of *Casal* very obliging.

The Newes of the Arrival of this Lady into the Camp, and of the Liberty which she afforded every one, to offer her their Service, as well as the goodness she had shew'd to that Com-

mander

mander we mention'd before, quickly spread it self into the *French* Camp, so that it afforded the best sport in the World: and there was a person, who, discourſing with the Duke of *Modena* of this Fair Curtisan, said, in derision of her, *Li Frances, Fanno Le Puttane, e li Spagnoli le godono*; The *French* create the Whores, and the *Spaniards* enjoy them.

This he said in reflection upon her first Gallantry with the *French* Monsieur, which I have already told you of.

In fine, The *French* Army rais'd the Siege from before *Alexandria* in the night, the 16th. of *August*, after they had besieged it three Moneths; and they dislodg'd themselves with so little noise, and so secretly, that their enemies themselves that were round about them perceived it not until morning after the Sun was up, and that from the Town Walls there was no Tents, nor any thing else to be seen.

The News was presently carryed to the Duke, who was yet in Bed with his Goddess; he expressed no small displeasure

displeasure of this unexpected depart of his Enemies, chiefly having resolved to give them Battel the day following, believing, the Victory would certainly have been his, if he could have once disputed it with them.

So, as soon as he was up, he went to visit the Batteries that the *French* had made against the Town, having no body in his company but his Countess; her Sister, the Countess *Louiza* being gone in other Company; they staid nine dayes at *Alexandria*, and in the evening of the last day the Duke went away, accompanied by some of the chief Commanders amongst the *Spaniards*; and after he had given the necessary Orders for the conservation of that place, and recommended the care of the Army to his Lieutenant, he return'd to *Casal* with his Lady.

The joy of his arrival at *Casal* was Celebrated, that Town indeavouring to shew him all the Honour imaginable, in acknowledgment, that they lookt upon him as the Deliverer of a place of that importance; but, after all, those Feasts were kept with much modesty.

The

The greateſt pleaſure of the Duke, was, to paſs the beſt and greateſt part of the day in going here and there with the Counteſs thinking no more of the Army than of any thing elſe, to the great aſtoniſhment of all the World; who could not enough admire, how a Man could be ſo much devoted to the love of that Woman, for he was quite contrary to other men, who love change, and often turn their backs, not only to Whores, but even to their Wives, after they have Marry'd them: My dear Reader, I believe thou very well underſtandeſt me, and that it is not neceſſary I ſhould explain my ſelf further, and therefore I will only tell thee, That this Prince, the more he injoy'd his Well-Beloved, the more his deſire was kindled towards her; and in the Mornings, when he roſe out of bed he was more paſſionately in Love with her, then at night when he went to bed to this Counteſs; the Fire of his Amorous paſſion was re-kindled at thoſe times that others make uſe of for their repoſe.

From that time the Duke fail'd not one day of that Summer to Viſit his

his Countess at her own house, and when they were alone they made no scruple to pull off their Cloaths, and go to Bed together, without any more Complements; The one, as if he were a Prince without a Principality; the other, as if she were one of those Curtizans of *Rome*, that are alwayes in their Smockes waiting for their *Bravos*. And although the Duke did often force himself to give Audience to all the World that came to his Court, yet it was in such a way, it was easily seen that he did it with *Chagrin*, and against his mind, and carry'd himself like an extravagant; and it is not hard for me to believe it, since that all his thoughts, his soul and heart breath'd nothing else but his love of the Countess.

But, for to give more convincing Proofes of this, and to assure the whole World, and chiefly his own Subjects, that the Countess was absolutely his, and possest all his Affections, he appointed her two Men for Guards, who wore the same Livery of his own Footmen, with order to follow this Lady whereever she went, and to Guard

her

her House night and day; this so publick testimony of the Dukes love, made her be respected, and more esteem'd than ever, and also fear'd by every one, so much it would have been lookt upon as Sacriledge, to have given her the least displeasure, or discontent; and there were at that time four persons condemn'd to Banishment for having their Tongues a little too long, and had talk'd too lewdly against this beloved Lady.

There was also another had the like ill Fortune, but he rather out of Railery, then for any thing else; hearing the Barrenness of the Countess talk'd on, who had no Children, neither by her Husband, nor the Duke, began to laugh, and said, *Che non Faceva Fanciulli, Perche voleva esser troppo semplice.*

This poor Babler carry'd not his words to Purgatory, for they put him in Prison for some dayes, and he had staid there longer, but for the Intercession of that person whom he chiefly had offended by his words, and was not inclin'd to Revenge, although what had been said had not much pleas'd her.

Certainly

Certainly that Lady deserv'd the affections of so great a Prince very much, being adorn'd with all the advantagious qualities which she possess'd; she had a way of speaking so gentle and so attractive, that she captivated all hearts, and oblig'd them to love her; I do not mean here of her extraordinary and charming way with which she caressed the Duke, having no expressions capable to describe them, but she was inclin'd to oblige every body, so it were not to injure her self, nor as one may say, pick her own pocket, for in that case she had no memory, being like other women, who are sparing, not to say covetous; Pride never set his foot in her Carriage: but, on the contrary, the more she saw her self in the Princes Favour, the more did the desire in her increase to Speak Familiarly with all People, and to converse modestly with every one: The Balls, Feasts, and Recreations of taking the Air, alwayes took up her thoughts, and her minde went no further then those noble Divertisements; and nevertheless, when she chanc'd to meet the Duke in any

place,

place, she expres'd a careleſneſs of all things elſe beſides the pleaſing ſight of his perſon, which ſhe eſteem'd above all; Anger nor Vanity never tranſported her; and if ſometimes ſhe had occaſion to Chide the Servants of her Houſe, ſhe did it without thoſe tranſports ſo ordinary to other Ladies; and alſo thoſe Cloaths ſhe had, ſo rich above the other Ladies of her quality in the Court, ſhe wore them without vanity, pride, or ſcorn, and contempt to thoſe that had not the like; It is true, ſhe frequented the Churches more through Cuſtome then any other reaſon; and if ſhe went to the Maſſe, it was only to be ſeen, and to ſee; Yet, I muſt tell you, that ſhe went thither ſometimes, being Invited to it on purpoſe by the Eccleſiaſtical Men, to the end of giving more Luſtre to the Solemnities, which were at that time Celebrated in the Church; and alſo to ſhew her the great eſteem they had of her Perſon, with which nevertheleſs ſhe was not ſatisfied. And although ſhe had a Face Faire and agreeable enough, yet there is nothing very laſcivious; but, whil'ſt the Duke

was living, when she was near him, she lookt upon him as if she would have devour'd him with her Eyes, her looks at that time being the Effects of which, her Impudent Love was the Cause.

But, above all this, there was some light of Prudence shin'd in her carriage, which appear'd in effect a Miracle, because this Faire one was not like those Women that affect the Trade of St. *Placidia* to please their Friends; that is to say, For all her great power over the Duke, and that was so absolute, she could dispose of his Authority as she pleas'd, without the fear of displeasing him; she yet kept her self for all that within the bounds of an humble modesty, giving his Highness thanks for all the Favours he did her; assuring him, That she was more then satisfied to injoy alone the Loves of so great a Prince: And the more the Duke offer'd his Service to her, and desir'd her to make use of his Authority as she pleas'd, the less did she importune him with Requests; so that when the Duke press'd her to ask some Favour at his hands, she usually made

answer,

answer, *His Highness granted her Favour great enough, to let her injoy his Person.*

After all this she Favour'd whom she pleas'd, and who were recommended to her, which were without number, there being none ignorant, how great her power was with the Prince, whose heart she possess'd, and govern'd his whole will; and, for that reason every one made Addresses to her, to help them in their Affaires, according as they needed her Favour; but, on her side, she knew very well what kind of Favours she was to demand of his Highness, not to displease him; and she very rarely press'd him to grant any extraordinary matter, if she had been of an humour to inrich her self, she wanted no opportunities of doing it, and the Duke would never have hinder'd her; on the contrary, he advis'd her to do it, and gave her all the meanes possible for it; so far, that when any one addrest to himself to obtain a Request, he us'd to say, *For that you must Petition none but the Countess and that was the onely way to obtain their end.*

That

That Charitable Countess had never yet the Repute of doing any thing out of Interest; but it has alwayes been thought, that all she did was to purchase to her self Friends, rather then through hopes of any gain, expressing alwayes her aversion to that Lucre; It is true notwithstanding, that when any one offer'd her some Fine thing, or considerable Summ of Money, she would do as those, who, laying their hands upon the Present offer'd them, usually say, There is no need of this, and yet take it willingly enough.

The greatest care of this Lady, and what she sought after with all the Pasion imaginable, was the Advancement of her Brother, which put the Duke to a stand, what more to give him; having already Honour'd him with Imployments and Offices very considerable, and much above his deserts; or at least if he did any way Merit them, it was very little: nevertheless the Countess never ceas'd begging for him, and could have wish'd her Brother rais'd above all the Princes of that Court.

The

The Arch-Ducheſs heard this news with a great heart-breaking; and notwithſtanding all the efforts of which her vertue was capable, ſhe could not hinder her ſelf from being extreamly diſpleas'd at the Advancing of that young Lord, who never had a pretending Merit: but, that which occaſion'd her greateſt Affliction, was, to ſee her chiefeſt Servants rather caſt down, then rais'd in the leaſt; and us'd with ſcorn, that deſerv'd to be treated with Honour; which caus'd theſe poor unfortunate Perſons to ſay, *That the Duke ſhew'd more favour to the Brother of an Adulterous Countes, then to the Servants of a Princeſs his lawful and true Wife:* and amongſt other things, witneſs many Libels and Satyrs, which I omit.

Although this innocent Princeſs receiv'd ſome kind of Mortification from all this, however ſhe never had a reſentment againſt the Duke, becauſe in the firſt place ſhe plainly ſaw, that he did nothing out of malice, but only to ſatisfie that blind paſſion, which had inſlav'd him in the Chaines of that Concubine: And

Secondly,

Secondly, she esteem'd it not just nor reasonable to compare these Gentlemen, persons of great Merit, with that Earle, that was a Man of no Honour.

In the mean time this Countess possest all the Favour of this Prince, and kept alone the two Keys of his Treasures; That of his Heart, by Love, injoying him without interruption: and the other, his Favours; since the Duke was so well pleas'd when his Mistriss made any Request to him; that she, knowing him of that humour, made pretensions to him only for his satisfaction, as it is easily to be known by this Letter following.

My

My little Heart!

CÆsar comes to tell me, that thou hast an intention to ask some Favour of me, in behalf of a Person that addreſs'd to thy Courteſie, and becauſe thou wert apprehenſive of diſpleaſing me, thou didſt not mention it yeſterday in the afternoon, that we were together. This way of thine in being baſhful, makes me believe that thou doſt not love me: for certainly, if thou didſt love me, thou wouldeſt act as freely with me, as I do with thee; alſo if I had ever yet refuſed thee any thing, I confeſs thou mighteſt with reaſon ask me nothing: but ſince I am ſo glad to grant thee all things, why art thou unwilling to ask me any thing? To what end is Love painted blind and naked, if it is not to teach Lovers Familiarity one with the other? The Principality is mine, and I am thine, but the authority is common to us both, that is to ſay, thou maiſt make uſe of me, and I of the State; if thou loveſt me then ask, command, and love thy

Charles.

But notwithstanding all these Protestations and Testimonies of love from the Duke, this Fair One would never importune him by asking any favour that would bring the least disquiet to his Highness, having wit enough to discern between those favours she was to ask for his consideration, and those she was to demand for her self. That for which she importun'd him the most, and rung in his ears from Morning until night, was, That he would carry her every where with him; and not being pleas'd with staying so long at *Casal*, desiring to go into the Countrey, and which was worst of all, she would not go that journey, unless the Duke went with her. The Duke having at that time a Fancy to see *Gennes*, she begun to second it, and to solicite his Highness by all kind of Supplications, not sparing all the flatteries and courtships imaginable, to make him condescend to her desire, who was already her slave of Love, which she held in chains, she met with no small repugnance, nay much more than she found when she was disputing with

with him concerning her journey to *Venice*, which, nevertheleſs the Duke had made chiefly upon her conſideration.

Notwithſtanding ſhe got the victory, and according as ſhe deſired they parted from *Caſal* in the beginning of *July* with a very ſmall train, and without diſcovering his Highneſſes deſigns to any, he made as though he would go to *Mantua*, not letting it be known which way he would go.

The *Genoiſes* did not a little wonder to hear of the arrival of this Prince in their Town but more to ſee him there, ſince he was there before they could hear of his intentions of coming to that place, and there were many that would not believe that the Duke was come thither in ſo unſeaſonable a time, and without any buſineſs there; but when they ſaw him accompanied with his Counteſs, they laid aſide their wonder, all the world believing that that journey was made for the ſatisfaction alone of that Favorite, who had certainly a curioſity to ſee that Town, which is eſteem'd one of

the moſt curious that is to be ſeen.

The Senate, following its ordinary generoſity, received the Duke with all the demonſtrations of Love that they are accuſtomed to pay to Princes, who travel *incognito*, and regal'd him with a great number of ſweet-meats and other refreſhments, and beſides that honour, he received many viſites from publike as well as private perſons; but to ſay the truth, the Duke not going thither to no other end but to divert the Counteſs, and ſatisfie her deſires, he was not very glad to be importun'd by all theſe viſites, it not being convenient for either of them to receive thoſe Civilities, and therefore to many it was ſaid, the Duke was not in his Lodging, and it was no great Lye for thoſe few dayes he ſtaid in that Town, which ſcarce amounted to three days, he did nothing elſe but go up and down with his Beloved, whom he led by the hand, followed by the Counteſs *Lovize* her ſiſter, and two other Ladies who came to keep her com-

company, which were alſo led by the Courtiers.

Two things appear'd ſtrange to the inhabitants of *Genes*: The firſt was the Dukes entring into a Church to hear Maſs, kneel'd upon one ſtep with the Counteſs, to whom he did nothing but talk from the beginning to the end, as one may ſay, From *L' introibo* until *Deo gratias*, *de L' in principio*, which made ſome ſay, That the Religion of that Prince conſiſted in words and not in deeds. The ſecond thing ſo extraordinary to the people was, That when he went to ſee the Palace, he ſtill led the Counteſs by the hand, as if he had been her Squire; but for my part I do not think that ſuch a wonder, becauſe though he led her in publike places, yet there was not ſo much cauſe for wonder, to ſee him lead her in a place where ſhe was not to be ſeen by ſo many. There was at that time at *Genes*, a woman Cavalier, who one day diſcourſing with ſome of that Town concerning the Ladies that follow'd the Duke, or rather, whom the Duke followed, and amongſt the reſt

ſpeaking of the licentious diſorder'd Life and Carriage of the Counteſs *Lovize*, happened to ſay, When the Duke ſhall have diſhonour'd the reſt of you *Monſieurs* of *Genes*, he will poſſibly drive away all the Cows to *Rome*.

But the *Genois*, who was as witty as pleaſant, made him this reparty; *I aſſure you that his Highneſs ſhall do nothing, becauſe I know for certain that the Romans love the Calves better than the Cows.*

The ſame day the Duke went from *Genes*, there were two Father *Capuchins*, the moſt famous in all the Province, who had undertaken to accompliſh that which the Father *Catori* could not, and who demanded Audience of his Highneſs, pretending they had Orders from *Rome* to ſpeak to him, preſs'd on to that, as ſome thought, by the Cardinal *Duraxeo*, archbiſhop of *Genes*, a Perſon of a ſingular goodneſs, whoſe Zeal has not onely edified thoſe of his Church, but of all the World.

But the Counteſs gueſſing very well for

for what those good Fathers came for, and what was their design, that she left not the Duke a moment, nevertheless because they were so importunate to speak with the Duke in private, saying, That they had great things to communicate to him concerning his Person and State; The Countess was forc'd to withdraw, leaving the Duke in the Chamber with the *Capuchins*.

The discourse which these good Fathers had with the Duke was full of holy Zeal, and they spake with so much tenderness, that one of them melted into tears; at every word, they conjur'd him in the Name of God, to forsake this scandalous life, which he led before all his Subjects, or, to say rather, in the sight of all the World, they added further, that, The Pope himself had wept many times, and that his clemency once being at an end, he should be oblig'd then to proceed to other Courses. They forgot nothing to inspire into him some Christian Sentiments of Heaven and Hell, and they let him see the

impoſſibility there was to attain to the firſt, whilſt he led this diſorder'd and licentious life, and the infallibility of his falling into the other. They alleadg'd to him many Places out of the holy Scripture, which they pointed out to him, to let him ſee that the ſins of the Prince was often a cauſe of God's punishing the people, by an infinite number of Miſeries, Warres, and Plagues. In fine, they ſet before him all the moſt ſolid and ſtrong Reaſons, that their Wits could furniſh them with, not ſparing for complaints, and threats from the Court of *Rome*, proteſting to him that if his Highneſs did not alter his Courſe of life, that Court was reſolved to proceed againſt him by the wayes of Eccleſiaſtical Cenſures the moſt ſevere. Briefly, they were not niggardly of all that a true Charity, with which they were animated, could ſuggeſt to them, to make the Duke quit his love to the Counteſs, and deliver himſelf from that ſhameful ſlavery that had kept him ſo long a time in bondage. Du-

During the Converſation of theſe holy Fathers with the Duke, the Counteſs was hearkning at the door, where ſhe could hear every word diſtinctly: ſhe was in deſpair, with the fear that the Duke ſhould yield at laſt to all theſe Councels of theſe Fathers; he heard them with much Patience, without ſaying the leaſt word, till at laſt, weary of hearing them longer, and to hear the inſolent reproaches, which they made him, he anſwer'd them, *That they had Chaſtity in their Convent, and at* Rome *the Cardinals had Wenches, and the convenience of diverting themſelves, and therefore he did not wonder at their ſpeaking to him in that manner.* And as one of them replyed ſomething that toucht the reputation of the Counteſs, who, as I have already ſaid, was behind the door, ſhe came into the room, and interrupted their diſcourſe, and pretending to ſpeak low, ſhe ſaid to the Duke, ſo that theſe good Fathers heard her well enough,

Send

Send these Fathers to the Convent, and for us let us go to Casal.

After that his Highness taking his well-beloved by the hand, began to say,

These Fathers would have Us wiser than the Princes and Patriarchs of the old time, who had at least one wife and one Concubine, not to speak of a great number besides, of both the one and the other.

To which one of the *Capuchins* replyed,

But your Highness does not see that we are now in the times where the Gospel is to be observed, and that it is indisputable for us, to act like Jews, *now we are* Catholicks.

The Prince, touch'd to the quick by these words, answer'd them with a threatning and fierce air,

My Fathers, without any other consideration, I will throw you out of the Window, and so we will use like Jews *these people that understand not how to treat with* Catholike Princes.

Having said that, he presently called one of his Gentlemen, and commanded

manded them to conduct those Religious men out of the Palace: after that he turn'd his back upon them, and went into a Chamber with the Countess, who being in great wrath at these Fathers, protested in grinding her teeth, that she would never give alms to a *Capuchin*, and she did not onely say so, but do so, so that some people said, That the taft of the *Capuchins* of *Genes* had taken away the power of eating from the *Capuchins* of *Casal*, and that these last did penance for the faults those others had committed.

Truly if these holy Fathers had had to do with some other Prince, it might have been fear'd that they had not come off at so cheap a rate; but for good luck to them they spoke to a very good Prince, who was of no ill nature, prefer'd quiet above all things.

The Duke entertain'd himself often with the proceeding of the *Capuchins*, in his return to *Casal*, and particularly one night in the Inn at *Varavalla*, where he was lodg'd, he said to her,

My

My Heart, if I have loved thee hitherto, to ſatisfie my Love which would have it ſo; I will love thee henceforward, to make them mad that would not have it ſo.

Upon that the Counteſs taking her time, replyed, *If your Highneſs ſhould ceaſe loving me, you would let people ſee you are afraid of Monks.*

All this was done to turn the Duke from the love of this crafty woman, but in vain; for all the trouble the Monks gave themſelves, who came as Embaſſadors from *Rome*, ſerved for no end but to enflame the hearts of theſe two Lovers the more, for ſince the Counteſs apprehended the loſs of the Dukes favour, fearing that ſome time or other he might ſuffer himſelf to be touch'd by ſome remorſe of Conſcience, ſhe imploy'd all her Careſſes that her Love could deviſe, and ſuch Charms ſhe made uſe of, that they were aſſuredly powerful enough to have provok'd our Pope *Alexander* himſelf to have committed the ſin of adultery with her, although he is a man whoſe life is

with-

without reproach; so that the Duke who was tender in his love, and loved to be made much of, seemed to melt as lead in the Fire, and appear'd in that encounter as if he would have sooner consented to lose his State, than his Mistress.

After that Voyage the Duke left her at *Casal*, whilst he went to *Mantua* about some particular affairs, he staid there above a Moneth without going to see the Countess, who was so afflicted for not seeing him that possest her heart, not satisfied with his Letters, which she received from him every week; she went out very early one Morning towards *Mantua*, to find his Highness; but her good fortune hastning her joy, she met the Duke upon the way, who went with her to *Casal*, renewing her caresses, and making amends for the time lost.

Some moneths after it happened, to the great displeasure of the Duke and resentment of the Countess, that many Copies of a Manuscript, intituled, *Whoredom*, in form of Letters, under the name of an unknown Author,

were

were ſent to divers of the chief Nobility of *Caſal* and *Mantua*, and alſo into the Convents, the Duke was much troubled, being deſcrib'd there as the Prince of Whores, and chief of the baudy-houſes; and that which inrag'd him the more was, That it ſpoke of the other Princes of *Italy* with Elogies and Expreſſions of reſpect. That Satyre ſaid more than it is poſſible to imagine againſt the houſe of the Counteſs, and it was impoſſible to ſpeak with more infamy, and it was the more ſo, becauſe it mingled truth and lyes together, but in ſuch a manner, that it all lookt like truth; and certainly it was reaſonable enough, for they were a Family of Six perſons, whoſe life was the horrour of all the World. In the mean time, theſe Earls and Counteſſes had no great reaſon to be angry at what was there ſaid, if they had been Lovers of truth: For their houſe had for certain been a perfect baudy-houſe, there being Six Ladies in that Family who lived almoſt publikely like common Whores, I ſay, almoſt,

becauſe

becauſe there were three of them who carried it with more diſcretion, which were the two wives of the brothers to the Counteſs, and one of the Counteſs *Lovizes* daughters, who acted their parts more privately, and yet nevertheleſs would not ſuffer a Friend to die: but as for the reſt, which were the Counteſs *Margaret*, and *Lovize*, and another of their ſiſters, kept by a *Mantua* Lord; they kept no meaſures neither in their ſpeeches nor manner of Life, ſo that they did all that they fancied was lawful, and ſo their houſe merited the name was given it.

This good and jolly company were preſent with the Duke in all his divertizements, which the more anger'd all Perſons of Honour, and gave a great ſcandal to all the people of the Duchy of *Mantua*, and alſo to all *Italy*.

This Prince led this diſſolute and licentious life with the Counteſs fifteen year, and ſo gave example to other Gentlemen of his Court to paſs their time with the other Ladies,

which

which I have told you of; so that with reason her house was called a baudy-house, there being no other discourses heard there but what were impudent and dishonest, every one taking a pride in speaking as wickedly as they could: This oblig'd all the other Ladies of the Town, that were of Honour and Quality to avoid this abominable Company, and fly from those beastly women, as from the Devil of Hell; Many other accidents happened to this Prince by his love to the Countess every day; but a hundred Pens would scarce be enough to recount them all: I have writ the Story of this amour but superficially, for to repeat all things would be too tedious, besides there are many things in it which, if writ, would cause nothing but scandal.

The love of the Duke was at this pass that he delighted in nothing but the love of the Countess, when it pleas'd Heaven to take away that great scandal from the eyes of all the people, and put an end to that crime which caused so many others, by giving

giving a Period to the life of him that committed it.

This Prince then was taken in the beginning of *September*, in the Year 1665, with ſo violent a Feaver, that the firſt minute it was thought Malignant by all the Phyſitians; and ſoon after, not onely dangerous, but deſperate: The Dutcheſs appear'd ſenſibly afflicted with this Sickneſs of the Dukes, and omitted nothing that ſhe thought could help him with all poſſible diligence; and which was more commendable, ſhe aſſiſted him with all the affection of her heart; which cau'd many to ſay; *That if ſhe had been in the ſame condition as the Duke her Husband was in at that time, he would not have been carry'd with ſo much heate and paſſionate care to her recovery.*

There was Command given to all the Churches, To ſay their Prayers to God for the health of the Duke; but ſince there was no hope given on that ſide for his Recovery, he was adviſ'd to make his Will, which he did orderly enough: And it is true, that in

thinking of his Countess he sigh'd bitterly; and, desiring to leave her something, he was silent a little while; after that, giving another great sigh, he made known his Intentions.

My Lord the Bishop, who assisted him in those last moments of life, made him understand, That for the satisfaction and edification of his Soul, he ought to aske forgiveness of her Highness his Wife, for the Injury he had done her, to which he seem'd very much enclin'd; and then causing that Amiable Dutchess to come near his Bed, he embrac'd her with his left Arme, and taking her hands with his right, he said to her weeping; *Princess, my soul, this minute I am come to know how much I have offended God by my Sin; and I also know that which I have committed in relation to you; but my Lord Bishop, who takes a care of my Soul in this extremity, assures me, That I may hope for the Pardon of the good God; therefore I pray you that on your side also, you will give me some testimonies of your forgiving me also.*

The

The Tears and Sighs of that poore Princeſs ſtopt her ſpeech, and would not let her pronounce one word; but they wrought ſo ſenſibly upon all that were preſent, that the noiſe of their Groanes and Teares, which they could not in pity refraine to ſo touching a ſight, was very mournful, and ſo lamentable a hearing, that the Biſhop fearing it might add to the affliction of that ſick Prince, councell'd the Dutcheſs to retire; and to that end took her by the Arme and led her into another Roome, where ſhe began to weep in good earneſt.

Towards the evening of that ſame day the Duke call'd for the young Prince his Son, to whom he gave his bleſsing; and after he had given him ſome Inſtructions of Living well, he concluded in theſe words; *My very dear and well-beloved Son, obey your Mother, and the more, becauſe ſhe is a woman of great Vertue; and take not example from your Father, who is a great Sinner.*

The next day, being the 15 of *September*, he paſt out of this miſerable

Valley of Teares into the place of eternal Felicity, leaving the whole Court in an extraordinary ſadneſs, and almoſt inconſolable grief; the noiſe of his Death was no ſooner ſpread through the Town, but all the People was ſeen in Teares; and with reaſon, for ſet aſide his Sin, which after all that can be ſaid, proceeded from the weakneſs of humane nature, he had all the Vertues; or to ſay better, in a word, he had all qualities neceſſary to make a great Prince, and a great Monarch.

He us'd his Subjects very gently, and help'd them in all things to his power; having been often heard to ſay, *That he choſe rather to be a Poore Prince, and to have rich Subjects, then to have his Subjects poore, and to be himſelf a very Opulent Prince.* Above all, no perſon ever went away diſcontented from him: He alſo recommended to the Judges, Mercy and Juſtice; in fine, in two Ages there had not been ſeen in *Italy* a Prince like him, if the Love he had for that Counteſs had not hindred him from exerciſing that goodneſs, vertue, and

courage

courage, which were ſo natural to him.

The People wept for him, and ſhould not yet dry up their Teares, if the goodneſs of that Princeſs-Regent, and the hopes they have in the vertue of this young Prince, the ſole Heir of the Houſe of *Gonzague*, and only Child to the Deceaſed Duke; which is brought up by that Mourning Turtle with ſo much care, did not comfort them; his vertue, his watchfulneſs, and aſſiduous attachments to the Government of the State, has Captiv'd the hearts of all the People, and makes him ſtill be ador'd and lov'd by all the World.

The little Duke, of the Age of fourteen yeares, gives no little conſolation to the Dutcheſs his Mother, and to her Subjects; and I perſwade my ſelf eaſily, that thoſe incomparable qualities which beg n to ſhine in his Perſon, will make his name and memory eternal amongſt thoſe Great Men, whoſe name is in Veneration.

He already receives Ambaſſadors with ſo good a Grace, and with ſo much

ſweetneſs

ſweetneſs, that they cannot enough admire, how there can be ſo much vertue and capacity in an age ſo tender.

It is thought, that the Death of the Duke is like to bring no good to the Houſe of the Counteſs; and already they begin to take away thoſe Imployments with which the late Duke had Honour'd them, to the great ſatisfaction of all the World; and to ſay truth, the abaſing of that Houſe is the Subject of the Mirth of a great many; and ſo much the more, becauſe thoſe Earles, in conſideration of their Siſter *Margaret*, had held up their heads ſo high, that (as 'tis ſaid) they could ſcarce with the end of their Noſe touch their equalls without much difficulty.

This Change will certainly be very cruel to them, and they will have much trouble to live with the young Prince, after another manner then they did with His Father; it being very likely, that they not having been us'd to obey, they will not know how to carry themſelves to the Prince as their lawful Soveraign Lord, having accuſtom'd to treat with the late

Duke

Duke as Familiar Friends, and not as Subjects, and therefore they have reason to fear, that this alteration will bring a notable change into their Family; foreseeing very well, that if that young Prince once take upon him the Government of the State, he will make them act with him after quite another manner then they did with his Father: And this is one of the Chief Reasons why I will conclude this Story by the Death of the Duke, without speaking further of the Countess, no more then of other things, waiting for some other occasion, which we shall not want in time.

I will not however finish this Story, my dear Reader, till I have told you my Thoughts, which is, that you have not taken so much delight in Reading it, as I did in Composing it; if you had been an Eye-witness of all that I have written, I doubt not but you also would have been as well pleas'd; and I know it by my self, who having seen all this History, and all the passages of this Amour, I receive

more

more ſatisfaction in committing it to Paper: if you have not receiv'd what you expected, or that my Style has not pleas'd you, or if by misfortune you meet with faults, I prethee think, if thou art diſcreet, that Love is blind and hath a Band upon his Eyes, ſo hard, that it is impoſſible for him to ſee either his own Faults, or that of others; I ſay of others, becauſe if you ſhould have a mind to undertake my Correction, I ſhall not be of an humour to follow your Sentiments; it ſuffices me, that I had deſign to divert you; but, if my ill Fortune has depriv'd me of that good luck, I deſire you to arme your ſelves with patience as well as I.

FINIS.